MRS BROWN AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE

NOVELS AT TWO SHILLINGS.

By LORD LYTTON.

Pelham.
Paul Clifford.
Eugene Aram.
Last Days of Pompeii.
Rienzi.
Leila, and Pilgrims of the Rhine.
Last of the Barons.
Ernest Maltravers.
Alice; or, The Mysteries.
Devereux.
Night and Morning.
Godolphin.
The Disowned.
The Caxtons.
My Novel. Vol. 1.
My Novel. Vol. 2.
Lucretia.
Harold.
Zanoni.
What will he Do with It. Vol. 1.
Ditto. Vol. 2.
A Strange Story.

By ALBERT SMITH.

The Marchioness of Brinvilliers.
The Adventures of Mr. Ledbury.
The Scattergood Family.
Christopher Tadpole.
The Pottleton Legacy.

By HENRY COCKTON.

Valentine Vox. | George Julian. | Stanley Thorn.

By MISS WETHERELL.

The Old Helmet.
Ellen Montgomery's Bookshelf.
Melbourne House.
The Two School-Girls.
The Wide, Wide World.
Queechy.

By the AUTHOR of "WHITEFRIARS."

Whitefriars.
Whitehall.
Cæsar Borgia.
Owen Tudor.
Maid of Orleans.
Westminster Abbey

By ALEXANDRE DUMAS.

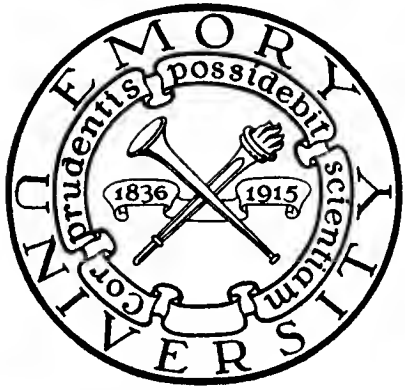
The Half-Brothers.
Marguerite de Valois.
Vicomte de Bragelonne. Vols. 1 and 2 (2*s.* 6*d.* each).
The Three Musketeers.
Twenty Years After.
Monte Cristo. (2*s.* 6*d.*)
The Forty-five Guardsmen.

By JAMES GRANT.

Romance of War.
The Aide-de-Camp.
Scottish Cavalier.
Bothwell.
Jane Seton; or, The Queen's Advocate.
Philip Rollo.
Legends of the Black Watch.
Mary of Lorraine.
Oliver Ellis; or, The Fusiliers.
Phantom Regiment.
Lucy Arden, or Hollywood Hall.
Frank Hilton; or, The Queen's Own.
The Yellow Frigate.
Harry Ogilvie; or, The Black Dragoons.
Arthur Blane.
Laura Everingham.
Captain of the Guard.
Letty Hyde's Lovers.
Cavaliers of Fortune.
Second to None.
Constable of France.
King's Own Borderers.
The White Cockade.
Dick Rodney.
First Love and Last Love.
The Girl he Married.
Lady Wedderburn's Wish.
Jack Manly.
Only an Ensign.
Adventures of Rob Roy.
Under the Red Dragon.
The Queen's Cadet.

Published by George Routledge and Sons.

ROBERT W WOODRUFF
LIBRARY



NOVELS AT TWO SHILLINGS.—*Continued.*

By G. P. R. JAMES.

The Brigand.
Morley Ernstein.
Darnley.
Richelieu.
The Gipsy.
Arabella Stuart.
The Woodman.
[illegible]art.
Russell.
The King's Highway.
Castle of Ehrenstein.
The Stepmother.
Forest Days.
The Huguenot
The Man-at-Arms.
A Whim and its Consequences.
The Convict.
Gowrie.
The Robber.
The Smuggler.
Heidelberg.
The Forgery.
The Gentleman of the Old School.
Philip Augustus.
The Black Eagle.

By RICHARDSON. (2s. 6d. each.)

Clarissa Harlowe. | Pamela. | Sir Charles Grandison.

By Mrs. TROLLOPE.

Petticoat Government.
Widow Barnaby.
Love and Jealousy.
Widow Married.
Barnabys in America.

By VARIOUS AUTHORS.

Caleb Williams.
Scottish Chiefs.
Torlogh O'Brien.
Hour and the Man, by Miss Martineau.
Tyrney Hall.
Ladder of Gold, by R. Bell.
Millionaire (The) of Mincing Lane.
Colin Clink.
Salathiel, by Dr. Croly
Clockmaker. (*2s. 6d.*)
Manœuvring Mother.
Phineas Quiddy.
The Pirate of the Mediterranean.
The Pride of Life.
Who is to Have it?
The Bashful Irishman.
Deeds, not Words.
The Secret of a Life.
The Iron Cousin; or, Mutual Influence.
The Young Curate.
The Greatest Plague of Life, with Cruikshank's plates.
The Green Hand.
The Attaché, by Sam Slick.
Matrimonial Shipwrecks.
Lewell Pastures.
Zohrab, the Hostage.
The Two Baronets.
Whom to Marry, with Cruikshank's plates.
The Man of Fortune.
Letter Bag of the Great Western.
Black and Gold.
Vidocq, the French Police Spy.
Singleton Fontenoy.
Lamplighter.
Gideon Giles, the Roper.
Guy Livingstone.
Sir Victor's Choice.
Outward Bound.
The Flying Dutchman
Dr. Goethe's Courtship.
Clives of Burcot.
The Wandering Jew.
Mysteries of Paris.
Land and Sea Tales.
Cruise upon Wheels.
False Colours, by Annie Thomas.
Nick of the Woods; or, the Fighting Quaker
Stretton, by Henry Kingsley.
Mabel Vaughan.
Banim's Peep-o'-Day.
——— Smuggler.
Stuart of Dunleath, by Hon. Mrs. Norton.
Adventures of a Strolling Player.
Solitary Hunter.
Kaloolah, by W. [illegible] Mayo.
Patience Strong.
Cavendish, by author of "Will Watch."
Will Watch, by ditto.
Reminiscences of a Physician.
Won in a Canter, by Old Calabar.
Mornings at Bow Street, with plates by Geo. Cruikshank

Published by George Routledge and Sons.

MRS. BROWN

AT

THE CRYSTAL PALACE

BY

ARTHUR SKETCHLEY

London

GEORGE ROUTLEDGE AND SONS

The Broadway, Ludgate

CHARLES DICKENS AND EVANS,
CRYSTAL PALACE PRESS.

MRS. BROWN

AT

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

PREFACE.

I WERE a osculatin', as the sayin' is, where to go for change, for I certingly had not felt myself at all, thro' my cold a-clingin' to me, as the sayin' is, and parties a tellin' me as I looked pulled down, and well I might, for I were reg'lar off my feed, and didn't relish my beer, as is always a bad sign with me.

So Brown, he says to me, "Martha," he says, "suppose as you and me was to 'ave a run down to Brighton for a day or two?"

"Well," I says, "it's a deal of bother, and 'avin' been there only last October, I don't think as it would be that change as you might expect."

"Well," he says, "wot do you say to Ramsgit,

for as to Margit that would nip your nose off, this time o' year?"

"Ah!" I says, "it would indeed, and shouldn't care not to go so far; but," I says, "I've 'eard as Mrs. Milsom, as lives over Penge way, she wants to let 'er two rooms, as I should like to go to, thro' bein' that near the Cristshul Pallis, as I could pop in at most day if so disposed, as will be only twelve shillin's a week for rent, and can live the same as at 'ome, and everythink as clean as print, as the sayin' is."

"Well," he says, "in my opinion, Brighton would pick you up more."

"Well," I says, "Brown, you can't say as Penge ain't 'andy for you."

"Oh!" he says, "don't mind me, as am 'ere to-day and gone to-morrer."

I says, "Don't talk like that," as give me quite a turn, thro' bein' wot I calls tombstone langwidge.

So he says, "Well, you do as you please," and jest as I were a thinkin' about it, I went to see Mrs. Selwyn, as 'ad made up 'er mind as change she must 'ave, so we agreed as we'd jine in that 'arf'house at Penge. Not as I cares about them parts, as is werry much given to tramps, and beggin' letters, and I can't a-bear a lone naybour'ood, where you might be knocked over by a travellin' tinker, and even 'ave your linen took off the line under

your very nose, the same as poor Mrs. Tampler, as 'ad a 'eavy wash on out by Peckham Rye, as was all swep' away by parties as was a-comin thro' the Rye, as the sayin' is, and nothink but wot she stood up in to call 'er own.

And certingly naybours is a blessin', tho' sometimes noosances, like Old Sinful, an old beast; but if there'd been naybours at Penge, I shouldn't never 'ave been shet out in the back gardin, as I were, thro' the wind a-bein' that 'igh, and me a goin' out at the back door for to give the cat the fish bones, and cos she shouldn't drag 'em all over the place, and jest as I were a-stoopin' to put the plate down, that back door, as shet with a spring, took and banged to sudden, and caught my gownd behind, and reg'lar pinned me to the door-post like. I couldn't turn round to knock nor yet kick, for it 'eld me in that close; and there I was, over two 'ours, reg'lar tied up, with a piercin' wind, thro' Mrs. Selwyn bein' ard of earin', and no one else in the 'ouse; for the gal 'ad gone out along with 'er missus of the house; and I fried a sole myself, with a bit of cold meat, for me and Mrs. Selwyn's dinner. I 'ollered and screamed like mad, and shouldn't never 'ave been 'eard but for some boys as looked over the palins, as was no doubt a-goin to steal any think as they might see; but, ketchin' sight of me, was a-goin' to run away, only I made 'em

stop, thro' a promisin' of them tuppence if they'd go round to the front, and tell the lady 'ow I'd been ketched in the back door; as pretty nigh frightened poor Mrs. Selwyn to death, thro' a-'ammerin' at the door, and a-sayin' as a old woman was a-'angin' 'erself at the back door.

I certingly were a little bit put out with Mrs. Selwyn, for when I asked 'er wot she thought 'ad become of me, she said as she thought as I were a-settin' in the room all the time, as 'ad been 'avin' of a nap 'erself, tho' she swore as she 'adn't so much as nodded; so I says, give me the King's 'Igh Way to live on, and none of your blind alleys, as the sayin' is, where you might be murdered for weeks, and nobody find you out, and preaps never be berried, like the poor ooman in Lester Square, as I remembers the 'ouse well, as 'er 'usban' kep' 'er screwed down in the fust floor thro' enjoyin' of 'er property as long as she were above ground; not as I should care to be throwed in the sea the same as the old man as left it in his will to be berried there, so as 'is wife shouldn't keep 'er word and be able to dance over 'is grave. As in course wouldn't be decent in a widder, tho' some carries their grief too far, as I considers bein' burnt along with your dead 'usban', as some thinks their dooty over in Injy, as is called smuttees, as no doubt they looks like when all burnt up to a cinder, as is one way of dryin' of

your tears. Not as ever I believes in parties as says they shan't never smile agin, and a lot more like that, as is werry oftin all my eye, the same as Mrs. Muggles when she got the letter, with a post-scrip', to say as Muggles 'ad been swep' overboard off the Nore, as shet up the 'ouse and screamed frightful; and when I went in to see 'er that same evenin', was a tearin' up old black as she were a goin' to 'ave dyed and made up for second best, and were a sayin' between 'er sobs as she could afford double crape, thro' not 'avin' to bear the expenses of berryin' of 'im, jest as we 'eard 'im a-clearin' of 'is throat in the passidge, as made 'er faint, and give me a 'orful turn, cos I knowed it couldn't be no ghost to 'awk like that; and when he come in, and says, "Wot's up?" you never 'eard a woman give sich a yell.

So I says to 'er, "Bear up, it's 'im sure enuf, alive and kickin';" if she didn't say as he did ought to be ashamed of 'isself to trifle with 'er feelin's like that; as were all a mistake, thro' is 'at 'avin' been washed off 'is 'ead, and picked up with 'is name in it at Southend. As is werry different to a watery grave, as the sayin' is, as were all 'er stupid ways; for, as Muggles werry properly observed, if he'd been swep' overboard he never couldn't 'ave sent 'er that letter as he wrote off Margit; but couldn't send it ashore till jest off

Southend, thro' 'avin' to go up the river in the wessel, so jest put that postcrip' to say as 'is 'at 'ad been blowed off 'is 'ead close ag'in the Nore, as she thought he meant 'ead and all; and I must say as she jumped at the notion of bein' a widder, as 'ad her weeds in the 'ouse that same evenin', and would have wore 'em the next mornin', as certingly would 'ave give any 'usban' a shock to come 'ome and see weeds bein' wore for 'im; not as Muggles minded, cos he only larfed like a tornader all over the place, and said as he believed as 'is wife were dreadful disappointed, and I ain't by no means sure as he weren't right in the main, as the sayin' is. Tho' that ain't as bad as Lady Wittles' great aunt as were berried in 'er weddin' ring, and 'ad 'er coffin broke open by the sextin's own 'ands for to get it, and 'ad been berried alive, but come to thro' the willin' a tryin' to cut the ring off 'er finger, and walked out of the family wault jest in time to stop 'er 'usban' from mar'yin' her intimit' friend as 'ad nussed 'er out of this world, leastways did 'er best, and were that orful shocked, when she see 'er come to life agin, that she took and died on the spot.

But as I were a sayin', them as lives about that Cristshul Pallis sees the fireworks jest as well as payin' for 'em from their own bed-room winders, as wakes up all the babies no doubt far and near, as is a great drawback, partikler when they're about

their teeth, and only jest got 'em off, and the nuss gone down to 'er supper, and then to be woke up with rockets a-flyin' all over your 'ead.

But law, you must have somethink to put up with wherever you lives; cos, I'm sure, brickfields ain't pleasant, nor more ain't the towpath of a canal with explosions goin' off, the same as the Regent's Park, as blowed poor Mrs. Wiggins slap out of bed in Camdin Town, as thought it were the end of the world, and let out, in 'er fright, as she'd got two 'underd pounds 'id away in the Bible, as she kep' a sealed book on a top shelf in a cupboard for years, as was always locked; and there was the notes safe enuf between the leaves, as 'adn't been opened for seven years; and 'ad a lot more money sewed up in 'er under clothin'—leastways in the band of 'er black slip, as never wanted washin'—as was 'ard lines for Wiggins, as 'ad been nearly sold up twice for under fifty pounds, and every fardin' of the money 'is, as she'd cribbed out of the till, as 'ad brought 'im to ruin in the corn-chandlery line.

But as to burnin' of parties arter death, that won't never do in this world, as would be a nice chance for them parties as is quietly a pisonin' of their wives and 'usbins, or even their own children, jest to get the money out of the berrial club, as there wouldn't be no trace on if burnt.

Like that there doctor feller, as I remembers well, as give 'is wife the pison, and were, no doubt, guilty, tho' they couldn't bring it 'ome to 'im, but come to a bad end thro' a takin' the wrong medsin in the dark, as slep' in 'is own surgery, and were found dead on the 'earthrug; as served 'im right.

Then that Palmer as murdered that poor young man in the name of Cook, why he wouldn't never have been found out if this 'ere incrimination, as they calls it, 'ad been allowed, as they do say was the way as the anshent Romins did used to berry; but we ain't anshent Romins, thank Goodness, and, wot's more, don't want to be; tho' I do not 'old with lead coffins nor yet famly waults, as did ought to be only earth to earth, as the sayin' is.

But in my opinion, all said and done, there ain't nothink like London for ealth, as can take a antibilyus, and get a mouthful of fresh hair now and then, or, if it will run to it, a week at Margit once in two years, as was more change than my dear mother ever 'ad; and as to my grandmother, why, she lived in Ryder's Court, off St. Martin's Lane, five-and-forty years, and never 'ad but two days' outing all the time, and she were eighty-seven, as 'ad a uncle as kep' a public close agin the New Church in the Strand, as she did always used to call it, tho' it were one as Queen Ann built close agin Somerset 'Ouse. Well, that old

man 'adn't been over the door for nearly fifteen year, and took to 'is bed at past ninety, thro' bein' persuaded to put on 'is 'at and gloves, and go to the front door and see a four-'orse coach start from the next 'ouse, as were a coachin' inn.

And that old man, he well remembered seein' Nell Gwinn's funeral, as were berried in the Savy, and only a orange gal as didn't get on by 'er 'onesty, tho' kind'arted, and they do say was the reasin as Chelsea 'Ospital were built for them old sojers, as did used to be a good many too many a 'angin' about Turk's Row when I were a gal.

I don't know wot we are a-comin' to, wot with early closin', and Saturday 'arf 'ollydays, and 'igh wages, and strikes, for the end on it will be as we must be all ladies and gentlemen, and have to do our own work.

Not as I'm agin 'ollydays, nor yet good wages, but wot I 'ates is 'umbug, for there's a set of hignorant young gals as thinks theirselves too good for servants, when the truth is as they're good for nothink. I don't 'old with constant early closins, not yet perpetual Saturday 'arf-'ollydays, but why not give them young people to take it by turns to go out of a evenin' or 'ave a Saturday arternoon, partikler in fine weather; but it's that ill-convenient to a many not bein' able to shop of a Saturday arternoon, besides, it ain't fair to close, cos all can't

do it, so some shops is open and others shet, as makes discontent, as is wot I don't 'old with.

But law, it's no use a-talkin', for the world will go on its own way, and a nice thing it'll come to in the hend, wot with strikes and locks-out. Cos it's all werry fine to talk about workin' men 'avin' a right to strike, and as Brittens never, never, never will be slaves, as the sayin' is; but parties as is masters, ain't a-goin' to be slaves neither, and in course, them as can keep theirselves and their famlies without 'elp 'as a right to strike, but not to go and throw theirselves out of work, and then come on the parish, or leave their children to starve. No, no, that won't do, and to prison they should go and be made work, if I'd my way; and I'd punish them rascals as goes about a-talkin' rubblish and unsettlin' poor men, and a-settin' them agin their masters, as in general is only lazy waggerbones theirselves, as makes a livin' of the workin' man by 'umbuggin' him about 'is rights. As I always say, this 'ere strikin' will lead to bloodshed, and some fine day there'll be the Riot Act read, and the milingtary called out, as will be wuss slavery than ever niggers knowed in this world.

They do say as old Beastmark 'ave made all them Prooshins pretty nigh slaves, and it's 'is little game to creep on and creep on till he's got all the world under 'is thumb. And it's all werry

fine for 'im to 'ave 'is sojers with their needles guns, as sounds more like tailors than sojers; but he ain't a goin' to sew us up.

Not but wot I've knowed tailors as brave as lions; for there was young Spillins, as were a-settin' on 'is board without 'is shoes when he see a willin knock a ooman down in the street like a hox, and if he didn't take and jump clean thro' the winder and spank the cowardly blackguard with 'is sleeve-board till he roared for mercy, and 'ad 'is red-'ot goose jist inside the windersell ready to ketch it up if the feller 'ad dared to show fight; as red-'ot iron will tame even wild beasts, as ain't nothink to a feller as will knock a fieldmale down in 'er sitivation; not but there's a many a ooman as a good larrupin' with a strap or light stick would serve 'em right—nasty, drunken, lazy toads, as isn't never 'appy out of the gin-shop, as the tread-mill is the best place for.

But it's my opinion as workin' people is all gone clean off their nuts, as the sayin' is, partikler servants, for I'm sure as to characters, they don't seem to care for 'em, and the way as they beaves when in good places is downright madness, as is like Mrs. Cortlip, as is own niece to Lady Wittles, and the lady all over, as ain't one to oller out at a servant, and wouldn't stoop to shy nothink at 'em, the same as Mrs. Mountravers, as called 'erself a

lady, a-livin' in St. John's Wood, as took and shied the bilin' 'ot pease puddin' slap in the cook's face, as weren't acting the lady over your own banister, tho' it was a furnished 'ouse; but I must say as your dinner al spilte is enuf to put a angel out, and Mrs. Mountravers weren't never that, and not even a saint, for I never see sich a sponge at champain and cold pale, as she'd take by the pailful.

Well, as I were sayin', Mrs. Cortlip lives quite genteel thro' not bein' strong, with her 'usban' a lawyer, as comes in to dine at seven, with 'is latch key, and werry little company kep', and only four in fam'ly thro' the children a-dyin' in their teeth, so 'er brother and sister come to live with them, as I considers a parlour-maid and a page quite enuf for upstairs. But bless you, never in this life did you see sich goins on as Mrs. Padwick were obligated to go in, as not only stole everythink, but wore out their missuses clothes, and picked the wine-cellar door, and drunk out all the beer, and fell down the kitchen stairs with the best dinner service, a meetin' of the page, as were a comin' up with the dessert, as was obliged to be took to the 'ospital a-bleedin' at the temples, and took three perlicemen to get the cook up the airey steps, a-screamin' murder. And as to the parlour-maid, she said she was a married ooman, and defied 'em to touch 'er boxes; and the 'ousemaid 'ad levanted, as the sayin' is, before breakfast. So

they couldn't do nothink with 'er, tho' there was tea-spoons missin', and lots of things besides. And, would you believe it, tho' Mrs. Cortlip wouldn't give 'er a character, if a carridge party didn't take 'er arterward, for she was seen in the 'ouse, a doin' of the dinin'-room winder-sell, and as dirty a beast as ever come into a 'ouse with a written character, as is a thing I never would take if I was a lady; for I likes to see the 'ouse as a servant comes out on.

Not but wot missuses is werry often that spiteful in not givin' a servant a character thro' bein' angry at their leavin', for I knowed a cook as 'ad lived over two years in a family, and only left thro' a knockin' up with the work, and the party as she were a leavin' wouldn't even open a letter as were 'rote for 'er character, tho' only askin' if she were 'onest and sober. But then, that party were not a lady, but only a milliner's business—one of them flash bonnet shops, with over twenty young women to cut bread and butter for, as were all done by machinery.

And that's 'ow it is as the workus is full of wore-out servants—not old ones, but low drunken 'ussies, as is wore out with wice; for whenever I 'ears as they be took to drink, ah! I says, it ain't drink alone; it's reg'lar bad ways as they've give into, as you can't stop, not if you was to shet up all the

public 'ouses, with all the Moodys and Sankeys in the world.

Mrs. Padwick, she says to me one arternoon, "Martha," she says, "don't you think as we did ought to go and 'ear these ere Moodys and Sankeys?"

I says, "In course you may please yourself."

"Oh," she says, "everyone's a-goin' "

"Well," I says, "let 'em." I ain't got nothink to do with anybody else, but you don't ketch me in no large crowds arter preachins, as ain't religion, in my opinion, any more than them camp meetins over in 'Merryker, and I 'ave 'eard say as they 'olds down in Wales, but it ain't wot I cares about; cos it ain't a parcel of hignorant men a-singin' of 'imms, nor yet them long-winded sermons, as is a makin' that free with 'oly things, as'll make parties leave off cheatin' and lyin' and givin' false waits, as I see myself in the paper, as was a reportin' about them as was bein' fined for false waits and measures, as "they was all of the church and chapel-goin' class." Not as that makes church and chapel-goin' wrong, but only shows as them as goes there may deceive themselves, while a-cheatin' all the while, and imposin' on others, about their piety; and the 'umbugs as I've knowed, as 'ave been pious always, makes me shudder when I sees 'em; and as to Brown, he always says, "Oh, if

they're pious, let me button up my unmenshunables pockets afore they comes into the place; not as he's a man to speak agin no religion, nor yet neglect 'is own, but he won't 'ave parties a-talkin' about 'avin' found salvation all over the place.

Nor none of your converted clowns, nor parties as 'ave seen their herrors of their ways a-turnin' preachers, as is in a gen'ral way is them as 'ave feathered their nests in wice, or got 'old of some flat to marry 'em, and with fine 'ouses and carridges goes all over the place a repentin' As is only a dodge in my opinion, for them as is fly-blowed, as the sayin' is, to try and pass theirselves off as sweet, as won't wash. Cos, if they're sorry, let 'em 'old their tungs and live good lives on the quiet; but, in course, parties as is respectable, with families to bring up, can't 'ave nothink to do with them, tho' in course nobody didn't ought to despise nobody; but yet they ain't obligated to ask 'em to dinner, nor yet wisit 'em, as would be a bad example to their sons and dorters.

As to that, I thinks morals is all a-goin' to the juice, for there was a judge a-settin' on the bench, as they calls it, a-praisin' of prize fights—if I was Queen Wictorier I'd talk to 'im like a bird. For of all the ruffyuns, it's prize fights, as is for money. Cos, in course, if even the Prince of Wales were to 'ave words with one of 'is pals, and they was both

to strip and 'ave it out like men, without a-bearin' no mallis, as might end in a black eye, or 'is nose swelled up and bleedin', that's all fair enuff; but no wagers, a-settin' men on to fight jest like dogs or cocks, as ain't legal; and that's wot puzzles me, 'ow that judge could go agin the law, wotever he might say, or even like to put the gloves on 'isself on the quiet; not but wot he were quite right about the use of them knives, as I'd 'ang a feller for usin' 'em, a cowardly blackguard as would stab you in the back, like Capting Cook, among them Sandwiches; tho' Brown says as he's read somewheres as the Inglish 'ad treated them natives shameful, so Cook were killed in rewenge.

It's not parties as fights fair as carries knives about with them, as is like them 'Merrykin's ways, as I don't 'old with.

I do 'ope as we're a-goin' to 'ave a summer, for never do I remember sich a winter since I were in 'Merryker, with colds as 'ave set 'ot gruel and tallerin' your nose at defiance, and baffled your 'ead ropped in flannin, with feet in 'ot water, with sweet sperrits of nitre on a lump of sugar and white wine whey throwed away, as not even a taller plaster wouldn't soften your chest, with a pain in my side as a linseed poultice and mustard only drove into my chest as seemed to strike thro' between my blade-bones, with a cough as shook me to my werry

centre-bit, as the sayin' is, and the only comfort I 'ad in layin' awake was to 'ear that old beast Old Sinful next door a-corfin of 'is 'art up.

But I'm thankful it was me as was laid up, and not Brown, for tho' a good man, I'd as soon try to nuss a 'edge'og, as won't take nothink, not even adwice as you gets gracious, but will corf like mad and turn up 'is nose at 'ore'ound tea, and spit out Spanish lickeris, and can't swaller a pill, nor won't put on a mustard plaster, as I tell 'im didn't ought to be neglected, and 'im sixty-three, tho' you'd say fifty were the outside from behind, as a many 'as told me in follerin' of 'im up the street, as carries 'is 'ead like a magistrit, and ain't ashamed to look anyone in the face, and yet 'ave 'ad 'is troubles too, as certingly did turn 'im grey the same time as I 'ad my 'ead shaved, and took to fronts, though not bald, and could show as good a 'ead of 'air as many under forty, leastways as says they ain't no more, tho' I'm sure Miss Pilkinton were born afore King George; and as to Miss Toovey, she let out as she were fifteen when Queen Wictoria were crowned.

So it's no use for parties to say as it ain't been a 'ard winter, but nothink to 'Merryker, as reg'lar froze me up all the time I were there, with sich 'eat in summer as will scorch you up to nothink.

So, arter all, there's wuss places than Old Ing-

land, as with all your faults I loves you still, as the sayin' is.

But I do wish as they'd take and drain the Essex marshes, as is where all the fog and damp is always a-breedin'; and then comes a east wind as drives it all over London, as meets with the smoke, as gets down your throat, as makes you corf your 'art up, as the sayin' is; and it's a wonder as you lasts as long as you do, tho' this winter 'ave brought down a lot of old 'uns, to say nothink of middle-aged, and them as is cut off in their primes, as the sayin' is.

But, in my opinion, there ain't nothink like a change so long as you don't get fresh cold, and that's why a many says they likes to walk in the Cristshul Pallis, as is free from drafts, so long as you don't go near them topical parts, as is obligated to be kep' that warm as suits them forriners, but would soon stew me down as like a bracin' hair, as blows from the Surrey 'Ills, as is 'ills, as young Bartlett says, all flesh is air too, but he's always a-goin' to plays and readin' them fancy books as makes 'im talk that rubbish, a-chaffin' me; cos 'ow flesh can be air nobody can't say, and tho' he told me as Shakespere did say so, I says, "I can't 'elp that, if he did he were a-talkin' nonsense."

As it's all werry fine to talk about 'is langwidge bein' that fine, but I've seen a old book of 'is plays

as some one lent Brown, and of all the langwidge I ever set eyes on, why 'is'n beats it for low-lived expressions, as no lady wouldn't set and listen to; tho' he did used to say them things afore Queen Lizzybeth, but then she never was a lady, for I'm sure if Queen Wictorier could know arf or a quarter of the things as there is in them plays she'd 'ave 'ad 'em burnt by the common 'angman as the sayin' is, Shakespere and all, and he'd 'ave found 'isself in the Tower, not as that can be a prison now, 'cos it's thrown open to the public free; so in course any one can walk out jest as they can the Cristshul Pallis, as Government did ought to buy up like Lester Square, as is a lovely spot now, but not in course that fresh hair like Sydenham, as is the lungs of London, as the sayin' is.

MRS. BROWN

AT

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

"THRO' pleshurs and pallises tho' you may roam, be it never so 'umble, there ain't no place like 'ome," as the sayin' is; as is wot poor old Oby did used to sing at my dear mother's, a spendin' of the evenin' of a Christmas time, with a tear a twinklin' in 'is eye, and stealin' fertile, as the sayin' is, down 'is nose; as were a sweet singer, and that feelin' 'art, as he did used for to quiver and warble in 'is woice, with Sally in our Alley, as were quite enuff to 'arrer up your feelins.

Not as he'd got much of a sweet 'ome to sing about, poor sould, with 'er as were that tung in 'er 'ead, like the clapper of a bell, with a cracked woice a-goin' constant, as seemed to go thro' and thro' you; and never went into 'er place when a

gal but she was at the wash-tub, and all the things 'ung out a-dryin' in both rooms, with the chimbleys a-smokin' wuss than any factory, and 'im with roomatic gout in both feet, ropped in flannin; as she'd got a bit of a gal to 'elp, as would drop the coals on, and then upset 'is ease and comfort, poor fellow, and 'is wife blow 'im up sky 'igh, as the sayin' is, for 'ollerin'

So no wonder as he always got away from 'er whenever he throwed off them roomatics, and would get a drop too much the day as he went for 'is penshun, thro' 'avin' a shillin' a day allowed 'im, cos ho'd been in the navy along with King William the Fourth, as were the Sailor King every hinch to 'is dyin' day, and, I 'ave 'eard say, would use langwidge to 'is good lady as was more like a boatsun in a gale of wind than a queen, as were a-comin' of it rather too strong; and 'ad 'ad 'is toes frost-bitten in the West Indies, and lost three on them in action, thro' a shell a-bustin' under 'is feet, as is why I never don't fancy a-walkin' on the sea-shore myself, with shells a-layin' about; tho' he certingly could throw the long-bow, as the sayin' is, as were wot he called spinnin' of a yarn, and did used to tell us reg'lar busters, as the sayin' is, of 'ow he'd been and slortered wild injuns by the thousand with 'is cutlash, as did used to make a aunt of mine as 'eld with the Quakers always afraid to set, and shiver in

'er shoes, as the sayin' is, as at last wouldn't be in the same room with 'im, for fear as a judgment might overtake 'im in the middle of 'is tea.

And he certingly did 'ave the brokers in 'is place pretty often, so it come 'ome to 'im, tho' for my part I always 'oped as he were only a bouncin' about them injins; 'cos if that bloodthirsty, as the sayin' is, over wild injins, why knock under to 'is wife, as were a reg'lar skinny-lookin' feedle of a thing? And yet I've see 'im quaver under 'er eye, as 'ave ordered 'im up to bed over the banisters, when he'd a friend or two along with 'im a spendin' of 'is birthday, over a bit of supper, as she started the lot at 10 o'clock, thro' a-lockin' up the sperrits and a-rakin' out the fire under their very noses, and 'im a-settin' like a lamb all the while, as sober as a judge, as the sayin' is, as was all the rest on 'em, for she did used to mix their grogs 'erself, as was reg'lar water bewitched and sperrits begrudged, as the sayin' is.

And yet when she was took sudden, poor thing, as were thro' the east wind a strikin' to 'er chest, he fretted a good deal, and follered 'er in six months.

And that's 'ow my dear mother come to 'ave that little cottage near the Red 'Ouse, Battersea, where they did used to shoot pigein matches by the 'undered, and often blowed their arms off for a lark,

as was all throwed into the water-works, as they bought up my dear mother's bit of ground, as were only a share on, thro' Mrs. Oby bein' 'er aunt by the mother's side, and leavin' no will, was divided between 'er and a cousin as was in the stay-makin' line, and married the lamp-lighter, as did used to come a-courtin' of 'er between the lights, off of 'is ladder, in the evenin' of 'er days, as the sayin' is, as she set at 'er fust-floor winder at work, and 'im a-cleanin' of the lamps of a mornin' as was jest in front of 'er door, and 'ave been seen by the milkman a blowin' of 'er a kiss, as nearly sent 'im over, ladder and all; when he come to light 'em jest at dusk would wave 'is 'and, as in course got 'er talked about in Church Street, Chelsea, close agin wot did used to be the Rookery when I were a gal, as Queen Lizzbeth did used to live in, leastways was always there, thro' one of 'er favourites as she'd give it to—a wile old 'ussy—as were a married man, a willin, but come to a bad end, for she boxed 'is ears and cut 'is 'ead off in a rage when she got tired of 'im, tho' he 'ad pisoned 'is own wife to please 'er.

I well remember the old 'ouse as were red brick, with a dust'eap, as Queen Lizzbeth didn't mind under 'er nose, and they do say as Chelsea Clock-'ouse, as is jest at the back, were its gardins, as there's a mulberry tree as that old she-devil of a

queen planted, as is about the only good thing as ever I 'eard of 'er a-doin, though they do call 'er Good Queen Bess, as is no doubt meant for jeers, as is wot she deserves.

So I always thinks of old Oby when anyone talks about Pallises, as is wot I said to Mrs. Tipcoff when she asked me if I'd make one to the Cristshul Pallis, as is a noble place no doubt, and I often wonders why Queen Wictoria ever don't live there, as could 'ave all the fust floor to 'erself and might walk in them gardins most days unmolested, except Good Friday or the Odd Fellers, as is always crowded, and don't see why ever they shouldn't be open of a Sunday myself, as Mr. Spurgin would preach there no doubt with pleashur, as is like Moody and Sankey, that fond of doin' good in a quiet sort of way, as the sayin' is, and quite big enuf for all them religions to be preachin' all about the place, as would be a great convenience, jest the same as 'Merryker, where they 'as preachin of a Sunday, in their churches, and don't mind goin' in for a lark there other nights.

Leastways that time as I went to 'ear that there Beecher over there it were a Sunday evening, and he made a lot of fun out of the Bible, as is ways as I don't 'old with myself, but they do say as he's a kind 'arted man, tho' he didn't seem to me to 'ave no more religion about 'im than our cat, as both on

'em 'as black coats; not as our cat never made no scandals nor rows over the place, but will set by the fire all the evenin' as quiet as a lamb, as the sayin' is, as it's a pity as many Christshuns ain't more like 'im, for I'm sure there was that fellow Colpet, as lived two doors off of us, as never was knowed to be at 'ome of a evenin' with 'is family, as 'is nose showed plain enuf where 'is time were spent and 'is money too, and I do believe were 'er death, poor soul, a-knockin' of 'er about the werry day afore she died, tho' she didn't never complain, and was took that bad jest afore eleven, and they sent for me the same time as the doctor, that convulsed as I see there wasn't no 'opes; and to see that man 'owlin' drunk a-settin' stupefied by 'er bedside were a sight to make your blood bile. Not as she knowed it, poor soul, as was a mussy, for she were a-leavin' five includin' of the infant, as only jest lived to be christened, as I sent for the minister myself, tho' the doctor did jeer at me thro' bein' the baptist's way of thinkin' 'isself and said it wasn't no use; as I soon shet 'im up over it thro' a-sayin', "'Ow do you know it ain't no use? Who give you the power for to say so?" I says. "It's as much as you can do to get black drafts and blue pills into your 'ead, I should say; so you'd better not go a-givin' your opinion over christenins, as is things as you're only a-guessin' about."

He were a-beginnin' to talk a lot of foolishness, so I says, "My good man, it would take you all your life long, and givin' all your time to a-readin' 'ard, for to understand them pints." So I says, "You take my adwice, and stick to your physic-ing."

I shouldn't 'ave been so sharp, only he talked about infants' christenin' as old woman's rubbish, as wasn't nothink more than a assistint 'isself, as 'adn't walked all over the 'ospital yet; as he won't never do if he goes about wastin' of 'is time a-preachin', when he did ought to be a-studyin' 'is physics, and in course means well, poor young man; but, 'owever is he a-goin' to teach others, when he don't 'ardly know nothink 'isself?

And there's sich a-many as means well, as does sich a deal of 'arm in this world, that I'd rather 'ave some of them as means bad let loose, cos they'd soon be found out, and their little games put a stop to.

But as I were a-sayin', that Cristshul Pallis is a wonder of the world, as the sayin' is, no doubt the same as Ladden and the wonderful lamp, as built it up in a night, and took it a-flyin' over into Africker, thro' rubbin' of his ring, as I'm sure I never shouldn't be surprised if the wind were to ketch that Cristshul Pallis, a-standin' as it do a-top of the ill, and blow it slap away into France; not but wot

it's kep' down by them iron bars as it rests on, as is a eye-sore, tho' a great support no doubt.

But as I were a-sayin' to Mrs. Tipcoff, I don't say as I won't go, tho' tirin' work them stairs, thro' a-knowin' Norwood well, leastways my mother did, as were in service there over sixty year ago, without a 'ouse within miles of you, as was a new married couple as she lived with, as was frightened out of their lives the fust night as they come 'ome from their weddin'-trip with a alarm of thieves, as he took and jumped out of bed, and run out on to the landin', and she in her terrors took and locked the door arter 'im, and covered 'er 'ead over with the clothes, and kep' 'im a-shiverin' outside in 'is night-gown for nearly a 'our, a-thinkin' he was the thieves.

Oh! my dear mother, she 'ad wonderful stories about thieves and murders, and she would set and tell us till our flesh would creep agin, as isn't things as I ever cares to talk about afore children myself.

But law bless me, 'owever parties could live in them wild out-of-the-way parts I can't think, and be murdered, like Mr. and Mrs. Bonwell in Chislehurst churchyard, by their own butler, as was a aged couple, poor things, and 'ad them night bolts invented arterwards, as nobody couldn't get into your room till you pulled the 'andle in the

mornin' as 'ung over your bed 'ead, near the watch pocket, like a bell.

But there's been plenty of murders in town, so you needn't go out into the country for to be knocked on the 'ead, and that's why I feels more at 'ome with the pavements and gaslights under my feet, as don't seem that solitary as 'avin' your throat cut in a muddy lane, nor yet throwed into a pond, like 'Unt and Thurtle, down the Edgware-road way, arter bein' 'id in a turnip field, and dragged across the lawn in a sack; as I can remember well myself the picters on; and all come thro' gamblin' 'ouses, as well they may call 'em 'ells, and drove 'im down in a shay, and bought the leg of pork in Oxford-street, as give one on 'em that turn as he turned king's evidence, but come to a bad end 'isself arter all, thro' 'orse stealin', as did used to be death in them days; but were a 'appy release for 'im, as he never could rest arter roundin' on 'is pals, thro' the finger of scorn, as the sayin' is, a pintin' at 'im constant everywhere.

But, as I were a-sayin', all Norwood did used to be open fields, with gipsies all about the place, as told your fortin by your face, as were 'ow Susan Maplin come to marry, as was that plain, as it caused a deal of misery; and I knowed another party, as married a well-sinker, tho' she did look down on 'im at fust, thro' a-thinkin' as he were

'er destiny, thro' a gipsy 'ooman with a babby at 'er back a-tellin' 'er as she'd be a wife in a month to a man as 'ad a black 'ead of 'air and a squint, as was the werry man as she drawed a pint of beer for that werry evenin' thro' bein' barmaid to 'er own uncle, and evcryone thought would 'ave the busyness when the old man were gone, as is no doubt wot the well-sinkcr 'ad 'is eye on, and deserted 'er with twins within the year arter 'er uncle 'ad turned 'er out of doors, thro' a findin' it out; tho' she 'ad 'er married lines in 'er bossim, as in course saved 'er character; tho' the last I 'eard of 'er she were a-goin' out charin', poor thing, as were certingly a drop for 'cr.

But law, as I were a-sayin', them gipsies is a wild lot, tho' they do say as they 'ave a lawful king of their own over 'em, as some say come out of Egypt like the Jews, as I've been in myself, as was all berried in them Pirrymids as some says as the Jews built thro' bein' in the brick-makin' line in them days, as always was parties to turn a 'onest pennies; and as to their stealin' children and dyein' 'em brown in walnut juice, that wouldn't never make 'em into Jews nor gipsies neither, as is both a dark race, and I'm sure as anyone could tell their own flesh and blood thro' all the walnut juice as it was dipped in in this world.

But I'm sure the gipsies as I've see about 'adn't

no call to steal nobody's children, 'cos they'd got plenty of their own, tho' in course the clothes would be the object, and them young gipsies was in a reg'lar state of noodity, as the sayin' is.

But, law bless me, to think wot it were to get to Norwood, even when I was a gal, with only one coach a-runnin' as come thro' Dulwich and Camberwell as was a grove with nightingales a singin' night and day, with footpads in the Walworth Road, as parties did used to go out in them coaches for to 'ear singin' in the trees.

Ah! it is all changed nowadays; and when you comes to look back over fifty years, partikler 'avin' a mother before you, and a gran'mother as were married the year of the Riots.

Not but wot I must say as some things is changed for the better, such as puttin' down Camberwell Fair, as were a disgrace, partikler after dark, as no decent person couldn't walk thro' without insults, with langwidge as was wuss than 'eathen savidges; not but wot some parties in booths worked 'ard to pick up a 'onest penny, even at that fair, thro' a sellin' of gingerbread nuts, like poor Mrs. Selwyn, as come from the Jews thro' a-marryin' of a Christshun twice, Selwyn fust and then a Scripture-reader, as I 'ave 'eard say as the Jews don't care about the gals who they marries, thro' only a-takin' of a pride in the boys, as

certingly do look beautiful with their 'airs all 'iled and sich lovely suits on of a Saturday, as is their Sunday best as they dresses in.

But Mrs. Selwyn, she married a missionary as come to convert 'er, and a nice speciment he were of a Christshun, as robbed 'er of everythink, and then was a married man already. So in course she got rid on 'im, but were left in Queer Strect, as the sayin' is, but made a nice livin' over them sweet-meats as she did used to make lovely, partikler almon' rock that 'ard as broke my front tooth out in tryin' to bite it, as got mistook for a almond or else might 'ave 'ad it put in agin.

We was always good friends, 'er and me, and that's 'ow it were as I come to go and see 'er when I 'eard say as she were that bad as they all said as she wouldn't never get over it.

I do think of all the old she-devils as ever I set eyes on it were 'er sister-in-law, leastways that missionary's sister, as were a nussin' of 'er, leastways a-robbin' of 'er were wot she really was a-doin'

When fust I got there I could see with arf a eye as poor Mrs. Selwyn were a-sinkin' thro' want, as that party said as the doctor 'ad said she weren't to take nothink but tea and toast-and-water, with a biled sole for 'er dinner, as would kill me pretty quick, even in 'ealth.

So I says, "Ain't she 'ad no wine nor a drop of sperrits?"

"Oh!" says that old witch of Endon, "it would kill 'er if she were to touch it."

So I says, "Oh! indeed;" but didn't make no remark.

But arter a bit, I says, "I've got a little further to go, and will look in for a cup of tea," thro' poor Mrs. Selwyn a-beggin' and prayin' of me to come back under 'er breath, while that old devil were a puttin' on coals, and says, "She's a-starvin' me?"

I didn't say no more, but out of the 'ouse I walked, straight over to the doctor's as were attendin' 'er, and soon found out as she were to be kep' up with some strong beef-tea and port wine. So I got a pint bottle of port from a friend as I knowed as lived thereabouts, and I bought a little case of that there portable beef-tea, as is next best to wot I makes myself, as 'ave saved more lives than I can tell, and I stepped 'ome and got wot I wanted for the night, and back I goes to Mrs. Selwyn.

The fust thing as I done were to warm a little of that beef-tea, as I give Mrs. Selwyn with half a glass of port wine, as I were jest a givin' 'er when that old woman, as 'ad been upstairs to clean 'erself as she said, but were a mockery, for it must 'ave been with the blackin'-brush.

Well, she come into the room, and as soon as she see wot I were at, she give a rush at me for to get 'old of the glass, a-sayin', "You're a killin' 'er."

I says, "All right, that's my business."

She says, "I'll 'ave a perliceman in and turn you out."

I says, "Do, by all means."

She says, "I'll go for the doctor, and you shall be tried for your life. 'Ow dare you come 'ere a-interferin'—I'll fetch my brother."

I says, "He's jest the party I want to see."

She calls to the gal, and says, "Go for Mr. Ruddick, you knows where."

So I says, "Wotever you do, don't make no row."

So I goes into the room and set down and 'ad my tea, while poor Mrs. Selwyn were a-dosin' I kep' my eye on the winder and presently see the gal' a comin' along with a party as were a-walkin' werry quick.

That old woman she were a watchin' too, and I 'eard the street-door open, and then bang to werry sharp, so I gets up and looks out of the winder, and see as the old woman in 'er 'urry 'ad been and shet 'erself out.

Presently I 'eard a tap, so I goes down to the door and says, "Who's there?"

"Please mum it's me," says the gal, "Annie as lives 'ere."

I says, "Then, Annie, you'd better go 'ome to your mother, as I shan't want you no more to-night," cos I knowed she went 'ome of a night to sleep.

Then there come a man's woice thro' the door as says, "Come, open the door, can't you. What's the meanin' of this?"

I says, "Mrs. Selwyn's too ill for to see wisitors."

Says that old beast of a sister-in-law in a carneyin' woice, "Oh, dear Mrs. Brown, I've shet myself out accidental, so let me in, for I'm a-perishin'"

I didn't say nothink, but jest slipped the bolt gently and went to see as the back door and the airey was all fast, and I shet the kitchen shutters.

Just then there come a wiolent knockin' at the door; so I goes up to the winder of the room as is jest over it, and I opens it, and says, "There's sickness in the 'ouse, and if you makes that row I'll 'oller for the perlice, as I am on the look-out for, for the lady of the 'ouse, as 'ave been robbed shameful by some one, as is a-goin' to 'ave them boxes searched, besides giving a party in charge for biggimy."

For, bless you, poor Mrs. Selwyn 'ad picked up wonderful with 'er beef-tea and port wine, and

were propped up in bed, with 'er face and 'ands washed, and clean things on, as is that refreshin', thro' 'avin' been neglected shameful ever since she was took ill.

I didn't let 'er talk much, 'cos I knowed 'er story, 'ow she'd found out as that cantin' thief were a married man, as she promised not to have the law on if he wouldn't never come near 'er, nor molest her; and didn't want 'is sister, only she wouldn't go when told over and over agin, and would 'ave 'ad all 'er own way if I 'adn't 'ave dropped in that arternoon.

And nicely she'd been a-featherin' of 'er nest, as the sayin' is; for tho' she were werry weak, I see as it worreted 'er not to let 'er tell me about that old woman's goin' on; so I let 'er talk a little now and then, and 'ad been a-tellin' me 'ow that old woman 'ad been a-robbin' of 'er, as kep' a old cheny shop 'ard by, where they sold everything, and bought things too.

So when they 'eard me talk that way they went off, both on 'em, a-saying as they'd make me pay for it. So the werry next day I sent Mrs. Challin as come in for to fetch Mrs. Selwyn's son by 'er fust, as she 'adn't been friends with since she married agin, and them other parties was a-tryin' to keep 'em apart.

So 'er son and 'er made it up, and he sent that old woman word to come for 'er boxes, as never

dared show 'er face or come near; so we 'ad in the perlice, and opened 'em jest a week arter Mrs. Selwyn got out of 'er bed, and if they wasn't chock full of all 'er property as was a deal on it waluables; and as to that Ruddick, he lewanted, or we'd 'ave 'ad the law on 'im for marryin' under false pretences, as 'ad turned out a reg'lar impostor, and 'ad took in the ministers of one or two religions, and 'adn't dared show 'is face for months till he thought as Mrs. Selwyn were a-dyin', and as he'd be able to collar the bit of property if he made a rush for it, not a-dreamin' that I knowed of 'im bein' a married man, 'cos in course Mrs. Selwyn kep' that dark from everybody, and told it only but to a old friend like me on the quiet, 'cos she'd started 'im off about 'is busyness when she found 'im out, but kep' in with 'is sister, thinkin' 'er poor, thro' bein' that kind 'arted, and often give 'er a meal and a lodgin' too, as was a festerin' of a wiper in 'er bussim all the time, as the sayin' is.

So I don't 'old with the gipsies fortin'-tellin', as is as bad as the cards as 'ave brought a-man to misery, as do not 'old with any one a-peepin' in footurity, as the sayin' is. 'Cos peepin' 's like listenin', a mean 'abit, as is 'ow Mrs. Jobbins lost the sight of 'er eye, by a strong draught thro' the key-'ole, as settled into inflammation, and only see poor Mary Ann Malkin 'avin' of 'er 'ands bandaged,

as was a female attendant, so no great 'arm about that, and wot was it to 'er wot 'er fust floor were a-doin'

But, law bless me, wot a deal of time and trouble would be saved, if parties would only mind their own busyness. But as to goin' to the Cristshul Pallis, why it's like a reg'lar Cook's excursion, not as you need take your dinner with you, for I've 'eard say as there's lovely wittles at all prices all over the place, and 'ave many a good meal there myself; and I often wonder wotever becomes of the broken wittles, as must be wagon loads, and would keep famlies by the score; not but wot it's a good long way to go to fetch 'em away, not but wot they'd do it in France, like birds, as the sayin' is.

But, law, them French is that clever, as they'd make anythink go as far agin as any of us.

So, in course, I weren't a-goin to put no spoke in anybody's wheels, as the sayin' is, about goin' to the Cristshul Pallis, tho' it's a long way, and certingly never did enjoy it like that time as I stopped down at Norwood, leastways Penge they calls it, and went in and out like a dog in a fair, as the sayin' is, for there's sich loads of things to be see' at that Pallis, as is enuf for a life; and 'ow I come to stop at Penge were thro' Mrs. Selwyn a-takin' of a lodgin' there to pick up 'er strength, and is stronger than ever now, and always says as she

owes me 'er life, as certingly a werry few 'ours more of that old woman would 'ave cooked 'er goose, as the sayin' is.

Them Surrey 'ills, when once you've got over 'em, is lovely air, as blows straight up from Brighton and 'Astins over the Downs, as is jest off Deal, so sea air all round, as is too strong for some, so all the better, when it's been blowed about a-bit afore you breathes it, as in course it must be fresh a-comin' all them miles in a gale; as they do talk of bringin' the sea-water up to Cristshul Pallis, as would be a wonderful convenience for them as wants to get to the seaside in a 'urry, as nearly every one likes to do, partikler arter a illness, or even with the children 'ome for the ollydays.

For tho' Brighton is nearest, it's that dressy, as you can't go out in your disshybill, as the sayin' is, no more you can't at the Cristshul Pallis, for I always dresses myself that genteel, tho' a musling is too thin, partikler on them terrises, as is enuf to blow you away, and my 'at and wail were carried off with that suddin gush, as I should 'ave lost 'em both, but for blowin' into the fountings, as didn't take my 'air too, tho' parties did make their jokes about bare poles, as I considers rude.

We'd been a talkin' about goin' a long time, and shan't never forget the fust time as it were broached, as the sayin' is, by Miss Pilkinton, as there wasn't

no gettin' of a word in hedgeways, as the sayin' is, as is 'ow I were obligated to do for to get into that third-class carridge, as we was a-goin' down to Greenwich, with the train a-startin' as goes hevery five minits from Cherrin' Cross, with me reg'lar wedged in, so as nobody couldn't get in with the train in motion, as made the guard give a drive at me like a mad bull with 'is 'ead, and nearly sent me a flyin' thro' the oppersite winder, as show it's a mussy sometimes to be a full figger, tho' as the party said to me over in 'Merryker, when the train ketched fire, and the passengers 'ad all to be pulled thro' a winder a foot square, "It's lucky, old blubber-sides, as you wasn't in that car, or all the fat would 'ave been in the fire," as I considered was a werry rude illusion, not as I were in that train, I'm thankful to say; but that party was a-tellin' of me all about it, as kep' a-squirtin' 'is baccy-juice out of the winder, as were bore back on the breeze, as the song says, as made it werry unpleasant for me a-settin' oppersite 'im, tho' I didn't say nothink thro' Brown bein' along with me, and I knowed as he'd take that Yankee doodle's spittins up, and then there'd be a row, as might end in a rewolver in the small of your back, or a bowie knife, as ain't pleasant things let off into your wital parts, as the sayin' is, and didn't ought to be allowed to be carried about that loose, and 'ow they can 'ave 'em

in the small of their own backs, as might go off, and blow their trowsers to rags, as wouldn't be pleasant, even if they didn't go no further.

But as I were a-sayin', to 'ear Miss Pilkinton a-goin'on about pallises, you'd think as she were bred and born a royal famly; and I do believe as she 'arf thinks 'erself one on 'em, thro' 'er grandfather 'avin' kep' a ile shop, as he 'ad rote up on the doorpost, as he'd once 'ad the honer to serve his majesty; as in course a few bundles of wood didn't run to the royal arms over the shop, thro' bein' that trifle no doubt, tho' preaps a bath brick, or 'arf a ounce of black-lead, as was wanted in a 'urry; or might 'ave been a bar of soap, or somethink like that, as they run short of at the pallis on a washin'-day.

For old Queen Charlotte were a reg'lar screw, and trotted arter them things as 'ad been in the line 'erself, tho' they do say as 'er son, as were arterwards King George, played 'er nice tricks, purtikler that time as he got 'old of her dimons, as he pawned, and 'ad 'ad 'em all changed into paste in one night, as were wuss than the lady's jewels a-goin' off by theirselves at the railway, jest thro' that party a-takin' off 'er foot off 'em for a minit, as only shows you did ought to put your foot down firm, as the sayin' is.

But, law, there's sich tricks played over them

things; for I knowed a party once as give out as she'd been and lost all 'er things out of 'er shop, as she were set up in out of charity, and 'ad been and pawned 'em all the while, as looked like a robbery, cos the pawnbroker's assistant, as were in the swindle, as the sayin' is, and married 'er arter, he took the box out of the cab, whilst in course she looked out of the oppersite winder, as was done to save appearances, as the sayin' is.

'Cos it's jest like one of them swells as 'ad done the same; but in course she 'ad to esplain a-goin' to court without all 'er best toggery on, as was all up the flue, as the sayin' is, to meet the money as 'er 'usban' 'ad lost a gamblin', as is a debt of 'oner, and must be paid, jest like the debt of natur', as we all owes.

But, law bless me, I'm sure there ain't no 'appiness to be found in pallises, and you may lose a great deal there, the same as poor Mrs. Malins, as 'ad 'er pocket picked at the London Crystial Pallis, close agin Regent Circus, as stood up in the doorway for a shower, and 'ad fifteen pound in 'er port mony, as were found empty behind the door, and then got quite short with me, and didn't speak for years arter, thro' me a-sayin' as it were werry imprudent for to go about with your quarter's penshun in your side pocket, as is best in bank notes as you can put a pin through in your bussim; and in

course nobody could lay their 'ands on without a outrage, as you'd give 'em in charge in a instant for tryin of it on, tho' them thieves is that owdacious as they don't know no bounds.

Not but wot thieves was always that bold from Dick Turpin downwards, as did used to ride from London to York every day on a bare-backed steed as were called Black Bess, and died a-jumpin' over a turnpike gate, tho' he 'ad a raw beefsteak put round the poor animal's bit, as was a bit too much, I should say, for 'ow he could 'ave drawed 'is breath thro' sich a mouthful I can't think.

But, law, I considers 'im a gentleman compared with that sneakin' waggerbone as come behind Alderman Wittles a-walkin' up Ludgate 'Ill, as 'ad 'is 'and on 'is watch for to purtect it, when the willin' took and drove a skewer into 'is back, as made the poor old gent in course let go 'is watch for to rub 'isself, and then another willin' took and snatched it out of 'is fob, as it 'ung from, with a black ribbin' and a bunch of seals, as looked werry noble for a magistrit, with a blue coat and metal buttons, and a fine shirt frill and 'esshun boots, as was lookin' glasses for shinin', thro a-usin' Warren's Blackin', 30, Strand, as were all over the walls, and stood jest where the Cherrin' Cross Railway is now.

And I'm sure wot with that and Northumberland 'ouse bein' pulled down, my dear mother

wouldn't know Cherrin' Cross, only but for St. Martin's Church, as I can remember, with a churchyard round myself as you went thro' a turn-gate there, and walked thro' the tomb-stones as lead into Chandos Street, as were all took away in carts to Camdin Town, as is now all built over, but did used to be fields as led to Ollerway, near Copinagin 'Ouse, as is all done away with now.

But, law, London won't soon be London no more, when they've took down Temple Bar, and done away with the Lord Mare, as 'll have to go over to Paris, as is a place where they makes much on 'im.

Tho' in my opinion them French did ought to be ashamed of theirselves, a playin' the fool over openin' of a Hoperer 'Ouse, when they don't know who mayn't come and punch their 'eads next. 'Cos in course, if they 'as that young Bonyparty back, Beastmark will be down 'is throat like a hoyster, shell and all. But, law, if they do 'ave the poor boy back, it will only be to kick 'im out agin, and preaps send 'is mother and 'im to the scaffoldin' in the hend.

And why she can't live quiet on the swag she got away from France I can't think, partikler as they calls 'er a Hempress still, tho' the French 'ave said as she ain't one no longer, as Brown considers as a insult to the French nation.

But, as I says, wotever do it matter, cos the

French may have 'em back agin, as always likes to treat their Kings and Hemperors like nine-pins, and knock 'em over jest for a lark, and then pick 'em up agin. Not but wot it will be many a day afore they gets over King Lewy's blood, as sticks to 'em, and so it did ought, the wile wretches, to treat a good man like that, and 'is good lady, and all the famly too, as was real Kings and Queens, and no rubbish.

Not as I thinks much of them Spanish ways of goin' on, as certingly their lickerish is good for a cold on the chest, and some says will cure the 'art-burn, as they'd better keep it for theirselves, for I'm sure they've got 'art-burnins enuf among 'em, as 'll end bad some fine day, as don't seem to know what they do want. As certingly do grow wonderful size onions, as is werry well for roastin' or stewin', but for fryin' with a steak, Old England is good enuf for me, thro' not bein' so watery.

They do say as the sherry wine comes from over there; but I suppose they haven't got time to make it proper now they're a-fightin', for I'm sure they're a-sendin' nice rubbish now, as a glass I took were nearly my death, at Miss Minshin, as makes up bonnet-caps, and got it from the grocer's thro' me a-comin' in unespected, and didn't like to offer me sperrits so early, as I'd a-give the world for a toothful on, thro' 'avin' got the eaves.

So I don't think much of Spain, partikler them bull fights, as is why Queen Wictorier wouldn't hever 'ave anythink to say to 'em, and give that there Queen of Spain the cold shoulder, as did ought to 'ave been a good woman, for I never see a uglier one, as was over in Paris one time as we was there, with a figger like a sack of fat with a rope round the middle.

But, law, I'm glad as I ain't a queen, for every-one to be a makin' them free remarks over, as is why Queen Wictorier don't go out more no doubt, as can't go into 'er own drorin' room, without them papers a sayin' as she wore 'er black silk, as looked no doubt werry nice, tho' it 'ad been turned, partikler looped up with tool, and a order of Wictorier and Halbert in 'er Mary Stuart cap, and I'm sure that Princess Beetrice 'ave wore that pink till I'm tired of readin' about it.

Miss Pilkinton, she were a sayin' as there were a reg'lar row a-tween 'er and the Duchis of Edinburrer, about who was to go in at the door fust, and that's why she won't never go near the Pallis.

I say, "Oh! rubbish, I don't believe not a word of it, 'cos it ain't likely as that there Duchis don't know manners, and if them princesses was to get a shovin' and a drivin' close behind Queen Wictorier, why they might tread on 'er gownd, or graze 'er 'eel, and then there'd be a pretty 'ow-d'ye-do."

And as to that Hempress of Roosher a-takin' on about Queen Wictorier a-tellin' 'er as she didn't know 'ow to 'old a child, and a-takin' of that there young Edinburrer hinfant out of 'er harms at the cristenin', I don't believe a word of it.

As I often says to Miss Pilkinton, "Do let that Royal Famly alone," as my time is reg'lar took up with a-takin' of their parts and won't have 'em run down, and never would believe about that Prince Christshun bein' of a married man over in Germany; and so I told Mrs. Mulgrave, as said as it must be true, for she'd 'eard it said in Winsor.

"But," I says, "never in this world would Queen Wictorier stand it, as would 'ave 'ad 'im took up for biggermy in a jiffey, as is six months with 'ard labour at the werry least."

Not but what I kep' on a-sayin' as we was a-walking about that Cristshul Pallis, "Ah!" I says, "there's many a 'eavy 'art in a pallis."

And certingly them as lives in glass 'ouses didn't ought to throw stones, and I must say as kings and queens must be werry lonesome in them big rooms, with lords and ladies all a-bowin' and curtseyin' about the place, not a-darin' to speak above a whisper, and then only, "Please your majesty, yes," and "Please your majesty, no," so in course never 'ears the truth spoke out.

Miss Pilkinton, she's fond of them low Sunday

papers, as is wot I can't a-bear, no more can't Brown, as always says it's mean ways to go a-throwin' a lot of dirt at parties as can't throw none back.

Not but wot Queen Wictorier is too much the lady to throw dirt even if she could, as no doubt only gives a smile when she sees them low-lived parties abusin' of 'er; as no doubt 'ave her faults like the rest on us.

But I should like to see any newspaper a-darin' to run me down over my famly matters; I'd give 'em a ot' 'un, as I've done afore now, when parties said all manner agin me, not but wot in a gen'ral way I'm like Queen Wictorier; for tho' treated that kind and respectful in gen'ral, looks down on 'em as abuses me with spurn for a contemptual lot.

I 'ave been at the Cristshul Pallis some days as there's grand fates, the same as that time as I see all them crowned 'eads there; not as there was a 'ead crowned among the lot, for Queen Wictorier 'erself 'ad 'er bonnet on, tho' in course she wouldn't wear 'er best things when she'd got wisitors as 'ad come dressed plain.

Ah! them was 'appy days for 'er, poor soul, as don't never take no pleasure now, except in a quiet sort of way up in Scotland; and then only jest to please them young folks, as must be dull work for Leepold and Beetrice, I should say.

I do think Miss Pilkinton 'ave got the Royal Fam'ly on the brain, as the sayin' is, for she's got sich lots of stories all about 'em; and, certingly, why ever the Prince of Wales is a-goin' out to Injer without 'is good lady; I can't think, but it would be 'ard work for 'er to be a-goin' all over the place on helefants, with tigers a-jumpin' out at you, and then to be stared at by them Injins is a 'arum-scarum lot for a lady like 'er to be among.

But it will be a fine thing for Injy 'im a-goin, as ain't never see a reg'lar Prince of Wales afore, as will 'ave to go on like them blackamoor princes over there, and throw the money about like water; and will make the fortunes of all them officers over there, as will be all made gen'rals.

And then there's the Gov'nor-Gen'ral, as is father like to 'em all, he'll 'ave tens of thousans give 'im every day to spend over the prince, 'cos in course it won't do to let them nigger beasts come the bounce over us; and if they've got 'undreds, we'll show 'em as we've got thousans.

Oh! it will be a grand sight to see every Injin on his native helefant, a-comin' to meet the Prince of Wales, as is wonderful and sagacious, and knows a friend from a henemy in a hinstant, and can use their trunks to any one as they owes a grudge to pretty sharp; for I well remember 'earin' about one as served a tailor as pricked 'is trunk with a

needle; as is jest like old Sinful, as give the monkey on the top of a orgin a rotten egg, as 'ad the sense to drop it on to 'is doorstep, where it squoshed, and made a nice mess, jest as it 'ad been 'arth-stoned.

I ain't fond of no crowds, not at the Cristshul Pallis, nor no wheres else; and for my part, I says, let's go a quiet day, and 'ave it all to ourselves, and can take your time over everythink, from the stacquary ruin uppermost.

So we should 'ave went, no doubt, on the quiet, early, and been 'ome for a sup of tea and a bit of cold 'am, or it might be a weal and 'am pie, but Miss Pilkinton, she was all mad to go down to the Cristshul Pallis of a Thursday, cos she says it's the best day next to Saturday.

I says, "Wotever are you talkin' about, Thursday bein' next to Saturday."

"Oh," she says, "'ow dull you are."

"Well," I says, "I don't consider you over bright, not a knowin' 'ow the days of the week comes."

She says, "Thursday is the grand day at the Pallis, arter Saturday, 'cos you pays more of a Saturday."

"Oh," I says, "indeed, and in course you sees more."

"Yes," she says, "and can 'ear a lovely concert.

But," she says, "of a Thursday they acts lovely plays."

I says, "Then in course you don't go," a-knowin' as she didn't 'old with theayters, thro' 'avin took to the Baptists.

She says, "Oh! but it ain't a theayter, as is a den of wice."

I says, "Oh! indeed, then I wonder 'as ever you went to one."

She says, "I never did but twice."

"Oh!" I says, "and you learnt sich orful bad ways there as you never went no more."

She flew out and said I were insultin' 'er.

I says, "My good soul, you said they was dens of wice, so in course I thought as you spoke from wot you'd see and 'eard."

She says, "I never see nor 'eard anythink improper in no theayter."

"Then," I says, "'ow is it you knows they're dens of wice?"

She says, "Oh! don't go on aggrawatin' like that."

So I didn't say no more, but I says, "Wot's the play a-goin' to be at the Cristshul Pallis?"

She says, "The 'Lady of Lyons.'"

I says, "Oh! I wouldn't see it for the world." For I can't a-bear them things, as remembers Wan Umbug, as did used to go in the cage, with red-'ot

ions up 'is sleeves, ready to burn them poor beasts if they turned on 'im savidge.

And I remembers a 'earin' of a young gal, as is no doubt the Lady of Lions, and were called the Lion Queen, as did used to keep them lions under; but at last got too free in 'er ways, and one on 'em give 'er a nasty one across 'er chest, as knocked the breath out of 'er body.

So I don't 'old with no ladies a-makin' that free with lions.

And it's all my eye them a-bein' that noble beasts, as they won't 'urt anyone as is innercent; but I'm sure I wouldn't trust myself in no lion's cage, tho' I'm sure I'm as innercent as a babe at the breast.

Says Miss Pilkinton, a-tossin' of 'er 'ead 'orty, "When you've quite done a-jabberin', preaps you'll understand as there's a City of Lions over in France."

"Law," I says, "'ow awful! wot a place to live in, with them wild beasts all loose about the place, with nothink but raw meat to live on;" not as ever I knowed as they lives in no cities, but thought they was all out in them wildernesses, like monkeys in a gen'ral way.

Says Miss Pilkinton, "Oh! pray go on, let's 'ear a little more hignorance."

So I says, "When you knows 'ow to talk like a

lady to a lady I shall listen, but wishes you a werry good evenin','' as was my last words to 'er on my own doorstep, a-returnin' that werry evenin' from Greenwich, where the idea 'ad been started of goin' to the Cristshul Pallis.

Not as we'd been to Greenwich for pleasure, but to see Mrs. Padwick's arf-sister, as 'ad herrysipilus, tho' the same mothers, as is a tie I considers.

But we was too late, for she'd been a 'appy release the night afore, and as nothink wasn't to be done, and Mrs. Padwick 'ad been with 'er to the last, we wouldn't stop tea, but took it along with Mrs. Pettigrew, as lived in Deptford Lane, as were a ship-chandler's widder, as were over eighty, and a 'arty woman as you'd see in a day's walk, as Pettigrew were 'er fourth, and 'ad made a werry nice thing in the bum-boat line 'erself in 'er day, as 'ad been brought up in the pool, thro' bein' born in Redriff, and married twice in Wapping, but both deserted 'er under the year, so never knew their hends, but married a coal-whipper, as slipped off a barge in a thick fog, as would 'ave sucked 'er under a collier brig, if Pettigrew 'adn't ketched 'er by the scuff of 'er neck with a itcher, as were 'ow they come to be throwed together, as was a 'appy match till he took to rum with all 'is meals, as were too much of a good thing, and polished 'im off under the year.

So we 'ad a pleasant time over our tea with 'er, as talked wonderful, and 'ad see more drownded bodies than any woman of 'er age and weight in the three parishes, and told us about murders as never did come to light, tho' the bodies always did arter a fortnight, and some did say as 'er father were in it, and sold 'em to the 'ospitals; but in course if you falls in with a stray body a-floatin' about, it may as well be took to the doctor's on the quiet, as was mostly forriners. So as long as there weren't no foul play, nobody's feelin's wasn't 'urt, and no expense for funerals.

She certingly 'ad some wonderful fine old things in the way of watches, and rings, and keepsakes.

Not as I should care to 'ave a lot of dead parties, things all over the place myself, as would give me the creeps of a dark night.

That old lady 'ad got some wonderful fine old sperrits by 'er, and said if 'er poor Joe had stuck to them he'd 'ave been 'ale and 'arty now; but it were new rum as were 'is delushin, the same as gin 'ave proved a snare to a-many as I've see go afore me.

For tho' if there's parties as I don't 'old with in this world, it's them miserable teetotalers; yet I must say as any one as gives theirselves up to raw sperrits is below the brutes, as didn't ought to be called lords of the creation, but only fit to be pigs as nobody can't eat.

So in course there were a coolness, as the sayin' is, atween me and Miss Pilkinton, and so the Cristshul Pallis fell thro', as the sayin' is.

Not as we was cuts, but only spoke formal in meetin'

But when she said, one evenin' at Mrs. Padwick's, as she felt werry lonely a-goin' to the Cristshul Pallis alone, I said as I'd go with pleasure, as she jumped at.

Not but wot I've been there scores of times, but still would go, not as it's a little 'Evins below, for I'm sure nobody can't find no peace there, not when there's a fate agin' 'em, as the sayin' is.

But wot I likes is quiet, so 'ave often withdrawed myself away like into them lovely gardins, and 'ad a good think over all manners, as I did last time, jest a closin' of my eyes, so as not to be distracted with nothink as were a-goin' on round me; when all of a suddin I jumps up with a start, and sees a feller a-standin' close agin' and a 'ole lot of men and women a-starin' and a-larfin' So a party he says, "I said I would, and so I did."

I says, "Did wot, my good man?"

"Why," he says, "give you a kiss."

"Wot," I says, "in broad daylight, and ever so many a-lookin' on, as is downright disgraceful."

He says, "It's any one's rights as finds a lady fast asleep."

I says, "Me asleep! why, I was only jest a-thinkin' with my eyes shet."

"Oh!" says a party a-comin' forard, "You really was fast asleep and snorin', and it was all meant in good part for a larf; and he's my own 'usban', and a good steady man, tho' he does love 'is joke, so made that free for to give you a chased salute, as he've been runin' arter the gals for, as I give 'im leave to, a-seein' as you was the lady as wouldn't take no offence when none weren't meant, as would be proud if you'd jine us at tea, as we're a-goin' to take jest under the transcript.

I says, "I quite looks over it in course, bein' 'olliday times," thro' bein' Easter Monday; "but I'd advise you not to let your 'usban' be a runnin' arter gals, givin' of 'em chased salutes," and I says, "I'm glad as my good gentleman weren't a-lookin' on from anywhere up above, as is that partikler he would 'ave been down on you pretty 'ot, like a load of bricks, as the sayin' is; and as to bein' asleep it ain't likely."

But jest then I pulled up suddin, thro' it comin' over me as I must 'ave been a-dreamin', for I'd been a-settin' on that bench with Queen Wictorier, not a minit before, as were a-talkin' to me all about 'er troubles, and I were a-goin' to ask 'er wotever Wales were a-goin' over to Injy for, when up come old Dizzy and says—

"Hallo! here's a lark!" and give me that kiss as woke me up.

So in course that was dreams, tho' it's downright wonderful 'ow clear I see Queen Wictorier a-settin' by my side, with 'er sealskin jacket and a black gauze wail; and as to Dizzy, there he was, in that there second 'and light brown snuff-colour coat of 'is, as is Petticoat Lane down to the ground, as looks the 'Ebrer more and more; 'cos it's all werry fine, Jews is Jews. You may make 'em judges, or juries, or even Lord Mares, but the old clothes will stick to 'em, as is wot they glories in all over the world, and contracts with crowned 'eads for cast-off things.

We 'ad a nice day together, me and Miss Pilkinton, that time, as the place seemed empty, tho' the bobby told me as there was thousans there, and I did enjoy a bit of weal and 'am pie and some bottled stout, a-takin' of it easy and improvin' of my mind, as there was lots beside me a-doin', a-settin' there a-nettin', and listenin' to the band as is lovely.

I likes to 'ave things pinted out to me certingly, but not reg'lar shoved down your throat, 'cos you don't 'appen to remember when Julius Seizer fust come, as was afore steam; but then so was Queen 'Lizzbeth; and as to when 'Merryker were fust found out, wot does it matter now as we 'ave found

it out, and know 'ow to be up to their ways, so as they won't do us out of no more Allybammer swindles, tho' I 'ear as they're a-doin' us in shares.

Miss Pilkinton she give me sich a buster one time over them Kings and Queens, as up in them niches as they calls 'em, as is all werry fine, but most on 'em did ought to be in Madam Tussor's chamber of 'orrers, as is wot they're fit for, a set of murderin', lyin' wretches.

"No," says Miss Pilkinton, "in course they did ought to be in the Cristshul Pallis, as is meant for to edicate the masses."

I says, "It's all werry fine, only let's 'ope as the masses won't try to himitate them as they looks up to, 'cos it would be a nice 'ow-d'ye-do if all the men was to take arter Old Harry, and the women was to play the same games as old Queen Bess," as I wouldn't sile my lips with a-callin' 'er by 'er right name. 'Cos, talk of edication, I'm sure the best thing as could 'appen would be if all the books was burnt, 'cos they only shows wot a set of devils men and women 'as been; for if there ever was any good ones in 'istory, them as 'ated 'em said they was bad, and took away their characters.

'Cos it's all werry fine—but give me pen and ink, and let me set down and rite about them as I don't like, and I don't think as their friends would like wot I said about 'em.

"But," as I says to Miss Pilkinton, "bother edication, it's the cuss of the country, with the money as is spent over buildin' of school 'ouses, as is a good job for builders and schoolmasters, no doubt; but as to the poor, wot they really wants is more wittles, and coals, and decent places to live in, and not be paid sevenpence for tackin' of a shirt together, as is a-goin' to be finished off by the sewin'-machine, and be sold at them slop-shops for seven-and-sixpence and upwards, as never cost, stuff and all, three shillins, as is pretty good profit for a slop-shop to make."

And then there's fine satin petticoats as is quilted, as a woman gets eighteen pence for makin'; and, mind you, this is fine prices, for some parties 'as to strive over makin' soldiers' shirts for three-a'pence a-piece, and sevenpence for a waterproof, and take arf a day to fetch the work and take it 'ome agin', and then they wonders as parties drinks; why in course they feels low, and ain't got no proper food, so findin' a few coppers in their pockets, they goes in for arf a quartern, the same as I should myself, and werry often shares it with a pal, as is wuss off than theirselves.

Not as I'm one to stick up for drink; but wot I says, and will say, is as it's bad wages and 'ard work as grounds people down in a gen'ral way.

I ain't one to stick up for no strikes nor yet them

unions; but wot I say is this: go down among them collier parts, where men earns good wages, and lives like brutes, and I will say, as it's all owin' to their broughtins up, 'cos they was born in wice and misery, so that when they're growed up, and a good time comes, thro' coals and steam bein' up in the world, they don't know wot to do with the money, it's more 'arm than good to 'em.

Joe Barnes, he always lays it to the parsons, as 'ave 'ad their thousans and ten thousans to teach the poor, and ain't done it; but, as I always says, most on 'em ain't 'ad more than they wanted for their wives and families. In course the bishops did used to 'ave their thousans, and they ain't bad berths as they 'ave got even nowadays. But wotever does a bishop know about colliers? Why, no more than colliers knows about bishops.

Miss Pilkinton, she's dead down upon 'em, thro' bein' a Baptist, and were a-goin' to Rome, only but for want of strength, for to open that there new Baptist church, as was a Cook's excursion, and were got up thro' them a bein' that way of thinkin' theirselves; and they do say as it give the Pope quite a turn, when he 'eard as a Baptist minister were a-goin' to preach under 'is werry nose; and as to them Ightalians, jest fancy them a-takin' to that way, as is about as dull as ditch-water. Not as even old Grabidaldi would set under one of them

preachers for long, 'cos he considers as religion is all 'umbug together, and would 'ate Mr. Spurgin jest as much as the Pope, or any one else as tried to stop them little games, as he's so fond on; and said as you didn' ort to rob and steal, or take away your naybour's wife, if you 'appened to fancy 'er, or get rid of your own 'cos you was tired of 'er.

They talks about the Pope a-givin' parties leave to do wot they likes, as is a sellin' of indulgences; as is to let parties do as they like, and give 'em leave to 'ave a rollickin' time of it, and get drunk every day; why there wouldn't be no religion in this world as could stand agin' 'im. He'd score agin' 'em all, as the sayin' is; and 'ave all the world a believin' in 'im, and 'is inflammability too, as is wot Miss Pilkinton's always a-goin' on about; but, as I says, he knows best wot he 'is 'imself, and in course them as don't agree with 'im, why let 'em jine the Baptists or any of the rest, as is all jest like the Pope for that matter, 'cos they all says as their way is the only true one, so it don't much matter whether they calls theirselves inflammable or not, they all means it, 'cos they all says as they're right.

And as I says to Miss Pilkinton and Mrs. Jarvis as jined us down there, "Do let's drop religion now as we're a-tryin' to be 'appy jest for one day," as they said they would; only Miss Pilkinton, she

would drag it in at every turn, as is nothink in the world but thro' a scriptur reader as she thinks is sweet on 'er jest now; and a pretty pair they'll be, if it ever should be a match, for he's one of them squashy men, as runs to corpilence, with a taller face and pimples, and wot she calls orburn 'air, as is about the colour of miste sugar, and 'angs like candles over 'is eyes. But he's werry serous disposed, as she says he always were from a boy, tho' he did let 'is mother die in the workus, thro' 'er bein' that worldly as she would go to plays, and never could cotton to 'is chapel as he made a werry good livin' out of, as is the best trade a-goin' if you've got a good connection; for I'm sure I knowed a boss-eyed party as 'adn't a shoe to 'is foot, and were only a sort of a porter in a oil-shop, but took to a chapel reg'lar, as set 'im up in business for 'isself, and he got away all 'is master's customers and married a rich widder, so as he did used to say there ain't no true 'appiness out of Ebenezer.

Mrs. Flinders, she were to 'ave went with us, but couldn't come, thro' bein' laid up at the last minit; and all 'er own nasty mean ways, as lived along with 'er son, and always kep' wine and sperrits on the quiet in 'er own bed-room; and the time as I went to see 'er drored a bottle of sherry with the corkscrew as she'd been and took upstairs arter

dinner, instead of 'avin' the wine on the table like a lady, and give 'er dorter-in-law a glass, as I'm sure wanted it with twins, as I couldn't 'elp a-sayin' to 'er when we set in 'er room a-sippin' of it.

But she says, "Bless you, my dear soul, it would be all mopped up in a minit; that woman's a reg'lar drain for swallerin' things up."

I didn't say no more; but when we was a-goin' down to tea, I see 'er put the corkscrew in 'er pocket, and were a-goin' to recommend a-leavin' of the cork on the end of it, but somethink put it out of my 'ead. When we got down there was a nice easy-chair, as Mrs. Flinders' son 'ad picked up second 'and, and a bargin too. So Mrs. Flinders was that pleased, and made me try it, as was werry supportin' to the back.

And when I got up, says Tom Flinders, "Now, mother, you set down, as is for you, and will fill it up well, and look like Queen Wictorier on 'er throne."

But, bless you, Mrs. Flinders would make five Queen Wictoriers.

"Ah!" she says, "Tom, I've often said as I should like to be took jest as I 'ave see Queen Wictorier done, with all 'er fam'ly round 'er, as 'ave got jest as many myself," and she says, "I can 'old my 'ead up with any mother, and not be ashamed," and with them words, she flops into the easy-chair.

I've seen lusty parties jump up quick, but never couldn't 'ave believed as Mrs. Flinders could 'ave give the spring as she did, with a yell as went thro' my 'ead, as I knowed was caused by 'er a-settin' on the corkscrew.

They was all terrified, and Tom says, "Oh! mother set down agin' till you're better," and tried for to put 'er back in the chair, but she give 'im a shove, and 'urries out of the room a-sayin', "Oh! my spavins!"

I didn't say nothink, but arter a bit went up to 'er, as said she was all right, and wouldn't own to the corkscrew as were a layin' on the top of the drawers quite bent, but stuck to the spavins, and come down to tea with a limp, but it come 'ome to 'er the next day, as turned to inflammation, and laid 'er up for over a fortnight.

Not as I were altogether sorry as she didn't come, for she is such a one to find fault, that she did ought to 'ave a world made a-purpose for 'er, 'cos in course when you goes out you can't expect everythink to go smooth, but must make the best on it, as is wot I always says, or else you'd better stop at 'ome, and there you've a-right to grumble if anythink goes wrong.

But it ain't no use a-pitchin' into waiters and givin' them Jack up the Orchid, as the sayin' is, when they're run off their legs, and

can't wait upon every one at once, no more than a dog.

And I'm sure if I were a waiter I should 'ate the sight of wittles and them as eats it, as ain't 'ardly got time for a meal theirselves, poor fellers, and then can't relish it, except a bit of bacon, as is wot drives many a one to drinkin', as can't bear the sight of butchers' meat, and turns to anythink salt, as don't give no support proper to the inside; as is why the drink tells so. 'Cos I'm sure I've knowed parties, when I was young, as could drink by the gallon arter dinner, but then they'd 'ad a good meal's wittles for the licker to work on, as kep' it off from the coats of their stomicks, and arf the drunken ways is owin' to starwation a comin' fust; and werry often them as is delikit fieldmales takes to it thro' not 'avin' no appetite for anythink but suction.

Mrs. Padwick, she's the right sort to go out with, as always says straight out, "Now wot are we a-goin' to spend," and 'as it down on the nails, as the sayin' is, as she'll 'ave it, and then one party is to pay heverythink, but wot's agreed on as extra; but no payin' arterwards for me, and then parties sayin' as they'll settle by-and-by, and will be werry free in orderin', but don't seem to recollect as the day of reckonin' is a comin', as the sayin' is, as is a evil day with a many, so they puts it off, as is all werry

fine for them, but 'ow about the paymaster? as ain't a place as I eare about, for I'm sure it's no thanks as anyone gets over it.

Not as I'll ever believe as that old Mrs. Olliffe 'ad 'er pocket picked that time as we went to take tea at Richmond, and gave 'er the money on the waitin' room table in the Waterloo Station, and set next 'er in the train myself, and then never to find it out till tea were over, and the sperrits and water ordered, as we was obligated to give the gal the money for thro' not 'avin' of a lieenee, and made us cut sieh a figger; leastways, would have done if I 'adn't 'ad the presenee of mind to 'ave a sov'rin in my bussim poeket, as I shelled out, as the sayin' is.

Not as ever any of us set eyes on Mrs. Olliffe no more arter partin' that evenin' at the refreshments bar; and 'er werry last words was a post-offiee order the fust thing in the mornin', and that partikler about my name and address as made me fust smell a rat thro' the 'ot rum-and-water as she took down like a over-flowin' drain; and then bust into tears, and said she loved me like 'er sister, as I said as I'd see 'er to 'er bus, and while a-waitin' couldn't get 'er 'and into 'er poeket to get 'er 'ankereher, so says to me, "Jest get it out for me, that's a dear soul," as I did, and felt a lot of loose silver; so I says, "You forgot, when you said just now down at

Richmond as you was robbed, and you'd got no more money, what was loose in your pocket."

She flew in sich a rage, a-sayin' she wished as orful things might 'appen to 'er if she'd got our money, and off she bounced in a rage; and certingly it come 'ome to 'er, for when she got 'ome, Olliffe, as 'ad come in unespected, a little on, give 'er sich a warmin' with the boot-jack that she took to 'er bed with 'er front tooth out and her nose swelled up like a sheep's 'art; leastways that's wot 'er gal told my gal, as met a-goin' for the firewood at Mrs. Grimbey's, as gives four wheels a-penny, and eight bundles for sixpence, as is only seven all over the place; and I'm sure the way as the wood is got thro' is enuf to make any one oller afore they're out of the wood, as the sayin' is, as I often do to our gal when I 'ears it a crackin' under the kittle, as she'd do to make it bile, all thro' not 'avin filled in time, and knows as four o'clock is my 'our, escept when a friend is a-comin' or Brown sayin' as he won't be in till five; as in course I'd wait for till 12 o'clock, not as I should think of takin' tea that late, as shouldn't close my eyes, as is why it's my 'abits to take it in settin' up, tho' fall asleep I never should with anythink on my mind, unless it's a good book, as will send me off like a infant at the breast, as the sayin' is.

So it's all werry fine to trust your money to others,

but look out as they ain't got sticky fingers, nor yet pockets, as is that deep as nothin' as goes into 'em can't be got out of the bottom on easy, 'cos I don't see the fun of payin' twice over for my part.

I must say as it's cheap enuf to get to the Cristshul Pallis, as I likes the 'igh level best myself, thro' stairs bein' things as I'm shy on, not as I'm afeared of my legs, as I'm strong on, but werry often gets the pants thro' bein' that stout, as in course the breath don't get thro' that easy.

Not but wot I'm thankful as I'm as well as I am, when I sees my junerers reg'lar broke down, and them as 'ave more money than me too; for there's Mrs. Partlet, tho' she 'ave got a one 'orse carridge, why she can't draw 'er breath for fat, and I'm sure I wonder that 'orse can draw 'er, for she's a reg'lar mounting of flesh, as the sayin' is.

So in course nobody can't tell me nothink about that Cristshul Pallis as I don't know, thro' 'avin' been over every corner on it; not but wot there's things there as it would take a life for to dive into.

And that's why I don't 'old with Miss Pilkinton, nor yet her cousin, Miss Garrit, as pertends as they've got heverythink at their fingers' ends, as the sayin' is; not as either of 'em should 'ave anythink of mine there, for they both works beastly, and as to Miss Garrit, my last bed-gowns as she made me two on she've been and felled the

seams with 'er grimy fingers as won't never wash out in this world.

I must say as I always wishes as that Cristshul Pallis were nearer to town, as is a long journey, not but wot the trains runs wonderful reg'lar, and 'ow they ever gets parties in as they do puzzles me; not but what poor Miss Toovey, as come up to town for to see a little of life, were werry unlucky, for she got out of the train whenever they called out "change 'ere," and were carried round and round London by the train till she got that sick headache, as 'ad to be took 'ome in a cab with 'er 'ead a-'angin' out of tho winder, as made parties say she were drunk, as certingly did put me out to 'ear 'em, thro' 'er bein' a partikler Baptist and a reg'lar tee-totaler, leastways so she said.

So I took it up pretty 'ot, and give it the naybours both sides of Mrs. Padwick's for their remarks; for she were a-stoppin' there, and were one of them white 'aired parties as you'd think couldn't say Bo! to a goose, as the sayin' is.

Well, she'd been up in town ten days with them sick 'eadaches a-bowin' of her down, as she did used to say, when I went to stop all night at Mrs. Padwick's, thro' Brown bein' a-gone away for a day or two. We'd been out for the day a-shoppin', and got 'ome to a early cup of tea, and then a lamb's fry for supper, as Miss Toovey couldn't

touch, and only 'ad a dry biscuit and a glass of water, and goes to bed early.

I was tired, and didn't stop up late; but when I did get upstairs, I got a-talkin' all manner with Mrs. Padwick, thro' a-sharin' of 'er four-poster; and jest as she were a-gettin' into bed she says, "Oh, if I ain't left my keys downstairs."

So I says, "Well, I'm not only jest undone, so will slip on my shawl;" and down I goes for to fetch 'em.

There wasn't no candle thro' 'er 'avin gas all over the 'ouse, so I only takes a lucifer with me for to light it in the parlour. I'd got arf way down when I come on a lump of somethink on the stairs, as sent me a-rollin' over and over down on to the mat, as the noise on brought Mrs. Padwick out, as lighted the gas on the landin', and there I was a-layin' on the top of Miss Toovey's 'ead, as was that overtook in licker as nothink could wake 'er, so we put 'er in the back parlour on the sofy, and covered 'er up; and if a empty whisky bottle didn't roll out from under 'er dressin'-gownd, as she'd got filled on the sly, and were a-goin' down for more, 'cos she'd got Mrs. Padwick's keys, as she must 'ave bagged early in the 'evenin', and in course got her congee, as the French calls it, in the mornin', and went and swore it were all my lies, as was always down on the teetotalers.

So I said, "I certingly were down on you, and it's lucky as there wasn't no bones broke."

But, law, when I sets and thinks over that Cristshul Pallis it do almost take my breath away, as 'owever they moved it out of 'Igh Park puzzles me, as must have been took to bits like a puzzle; and then to do it up agin, and not break none of the glass, as is more than that dratted gal of ourn can do, as 'ave never cleaned a winder without breakin' one at the werry least, as is all I've got for my pains in tellin' 'er not to do 'em, and last sent the broom thro' the fanlight, as is over the door, a-fancyin' it were a cobweb as she see, as ain't in season yet.

But wot surprises me at the Cristshul Pallis is the size of them Ninny whites, as ain't nothink but blacks after all; but, as I were a-sayin' to Miss Pilkinton, that can't never be their nat'ral size, as was a wild lot in their time, and 'ad to be destroyed, as Mr. Slivery the mishunary were a-sayin', as it were a mussy as measles proved that fatal among them Figgeys, as bein' savidges, is best cut off.

I says, "Law, poor things, wot for?" And as to measles, in course, if they goes about with 'ardly no clothes on, they're sure to strike in, as is certing death, and did ought to be kep' warm in bed, with saffron tea, as seldom ends fatal escept in children,

as ain't strong in the 'ead, and 'ave known 'em settle on the lungs with them as is riper 'ears, as the sayin' is.

But law, talk of savidges, it give me sich a turn the fust time as I went to the Cristshul Pallis, to see them New Zealands a-standin' there with a camel all stuffed together, as is werry well for a pet dog or a animal, but didn't ought to be allowed in 'uman beins, as ave their feelins, like ourselves, tho' they may be black, as is no doubt a purwision of natur', as Miss Toovey kep' a-sayin', 'cos in course their 'abits ain't clean, as is the reason as I've knowed parties as 'ave wore black stockins, but not ways as I 'olds with.

The way as that Miss Toovey went on about the Band of 'Ope, as were a-spendin' the day at the Cristshul Pallis the same day as we was there, as she said were Brittin's pride, and would grow up a blessin' to their countrymen.

"Well," I says, "not to the brewers, any 'ow," for we 'adn't found 'er out then, and it's my opinion if we was all to take to the water like ducks, as the sayin' is, we should soon dwindle down into a miserable arf-starved lot, with no more sperrit than a airey sneak.

I must say as I did enjoy the play as I see acted at the Cristshul Pallis, tho' put out at first thro' a-thinkin' as it were goin' to be a wild beast show,

thro' 'earin' as it were the Lady of Lions, as Miss Pilkinton had kep' on goin' on talkin' about.

So when I got in, and see a werry nice lookin' young gentleman as were a-paintin' of a picter, as some one said as he were a gard'ner, I says, "Never in this world with sich 'ands as them," as was downright lilies for whiteness, and dressed that lovely, with sich pumps and 'is 'air done beautiful.

He'd got a aged 'ma as he lived along with, but I should say as she kep' 'im in idleness, else he wouldn't never 'ave give into them pranks as he did; for if he 'adn't been and fell in love with sich a lovely young lady, tho' 'er parents was only well-to-do tradespeople. But, law, they let 'er dress that fine, and 'ad 'er 'ead turned with readin' of novels and all manner like that, no doubt; so when this 'ere young gard'ner, as were a-wastin' of 'is time when we fust see 'im a-paintin' of 'er portrait, come to call on 'er, and said as he loved 'er, and as he were a party on a 'igh spear quite above 'er, if she didn't take and swaller it all.

I quite took to 'er, poor dear, when I see 'er a-wonderin' who 'ad sent 'er some lovely flowers; tho' I says to Miss Pilkinton, "I should say as she might guess easy when there's a gard'ner close by."

But, law, if that same gard'ner didn't come in, as I were a-sayin', dressed up that fine, along with a

waggerbone as owed that gal a spite, so come and passed off that there young gard'ner to that young lady and 'er parents for a prince, and if they didn't take and snap at 'im like a cock at a gooseberry, as the sayin' is, and make a match on it all of a 'urry, as is the way with them rich tradespeople, as always wants to be up in the world; for there was Mrs. Jaunt, the tripe-dresser, as let 'er dorter marry a Capting, as turned out to be only a commershal in the Wolunteers, as I were sure weren't much account, for I see 'im a-eatin' of 'is peas with 'is knife, as I knowed ain't manners for a Capting.

Well, them parties in the play was married, and I must say it's a pity as it wasn't in earnest, for they was as nice a-lookin' young couple as ever I see, and that lovin' as were quite a picter.

But, law a mussy, when he took 'er 'ome, there was a putty 'ow-d'ye-do, and I must say as I don't consider as he be'aved 'an'some, tho' 'ansome is as 'ansome does, as the sayin' is, 'cos he stuffed 'er up with a lot of rubbish about 'is Pallis, as the Cristshul Pallis were a fool to, and then to come down to a beer-shop, as were the place as he took 'er to, and no better, as is where I blame 'er parents for not a-seein' as he'd got a good 'ome to take 'er to, as no doubt 'ad begun life theirselves 'umble enuf; and they 'ad a friend as were jist like Brown, in speakin' of 'is mind, as didn't like that young feller, and

thought as he were a 'umbug from the werry fust, but they all reg'lar set on 'im in a row.

Well, in course, when that young lady found 'ow she'd been took in, she turned on 'im and gave it 'im 'ot, and I don't consider as she did ought to 'ave been so down on 'is poor mother, as were a lone widder, and 'ad'nt not much of a time on it with that young feller, a-doin' of his washin' for 'im, let alone 'avin of a meal ready when he come in, and I dessay kep' out of 'er bed o' nights a-settin' up for 'im.

Well, there was a nice shine, as ended in 'er a-goin' ome to 'er parints; and 'as for 'im, he took and 'listed.

But, law, poor things, I did pity 'em, for they was both on 'em werry fond of each other, and while he were gone a-fightin' if her old fool of a father didn't take and bust, as the Yankees says. Oh! reg'lar sold up, bless you, and ruin a starin' of 'em in the face, as the sayin' is, as must go to the workus, as their dorter could save 'em from by marryin' of a rich man.

"But," I says, "'owever can she, when she's got a lorful 'usban' aready?"

Says Miss Pilkinton, "Oh, do listen to the lovey's langwidge, Mrs. Brown."

"Well," I says, "that's all werry fine, but it's biggermy all the same, wotever langwidge you

uses." 'Cos fine words don't butter no parsnips, as the sayin' is.

I do believe as that old 'umbug of a father would 'ave let 'er marry anyone for money, only jest in the nick of time up turns the young gard'ner dressed up like a sojer.

I says, "It's all werry fine for him to put on that there uniform, but they ain't a-goin' to believe as he's a gen'ral 'cos he says so; they must be flats. Why didn't he say as he were a prince at fust?"

So I says, "If I was you, Miss, I wouldn't be in too much of a 'urry to swaller that little lot."

"Hush!" says Miss Pilkinton. "You'll be turned out."

"Well," I says, "I considers it a dooty in one woman to 'elp another; and tho' he is a good-lookin' waggerbone, I can't set still and see him take in that there sweet young gal like that, twice in one arternoon."

Well, jest as I were a-talkin' in a whisper like, a party says to me, "If you wants to talk, jest step outside."

I were a-goin' to give 'im 'is answer, when the young lady give a scream, and rushes into the sojer laddie's arms, as 'ad throwed off his millingtary cloak, a-sayin' as he were a gen'ral, so that it was all right.

Every one were a-shakin' 'ands with everybody;

even that old family friend, as didn't believe in 'im at fust, seemed satisfied; so I 'ope it's all right, and may turn out a 'appy match; and certingly them young people is werry fond of one another, as is arf the battle, as the sayin' is.

"But," I says to Miss Pilkinton, "Wot a swindle."

She says, "Wot do you mean?"

"Why," I says, "where's the lions?"

She says, "Pray don't espose your hignorance, Mrs. Brown, in a crowd like this, as will be pinted at all over the place. Why," she says, "it's one of the most beautifulest plays in our langwidge."

I says, "Don't say our langwidge, for I'm sure I never talks like that, tho' I will say as it's better than that there Shakespere's, as uses them expressions as is downright low-lived I considers; but," I says, "who rote it?"

"Oh!" she says, "his name were Liston Bulwer."

"Oh!" I says, "I've 'eard speak of 'im as were that comic actor, as nobody couldn't look at 'im and not reg'lar split with larfter, and when he come on parties did used to larf so at 'is face, as they never couldn't 'ear 'im speak; so that's the reason, no doubt, as he took to ritin', the same as deaf and dumb, as can't make theirselves understood. "But,"

I says, "I must say as I likes that play 'cos there's no murders in it."

Not as I 'olds with sich wile deceit as that young gard'ner showed, as will steady down, let's 'ope, when he gets a fam'ly about 'im. I do 'ope as he'll be kind to 'is poor old mother, tho' in course she ain't up to the knocker in manners, but yet did ought to be treated respectful, as I'm sure 'er dorter-in-law will, 'cos I likes her face, as looks as if she'd do her dooty, partikler now as she've 'ad 'er lesson over that gard'ner.

But, law, it did seem that singler a-goin' to a play by daytime, but yet a great convenience to them parties as lives about there, and don't want to be out at night, thro' bein' serous disposed and apt to ketch cold, as is the wust of theayters.

I don't think as ever I enjoyed my tea with cold 'am more than I did when we come out of that play, as see a waiter as I knowed well, and a nice young man, as brought us everythink that nice, with the band a-playin' that lovely all the while.

Miss Pilkinton, she give 'erself some of 'er airs, a-sayin', "Not as I cares about takin' of my meals in public like this, tho' things is werry good."

I says, "Well, for my part, I'd rather 'ave 'em 'ere than any public as ever I were in, as in gen'ral smells of stale baccy and beer."

She only bust out a larfin', and tossed 'er 'ead;

and as to Miss Toovey, she took and spluttered all 'er tea into a lady's face as were a-settin' in front of 'er close by, eatin' of a ice, as brought on words, for she wasn't no lady by 'er langwidge, tho' certingly it were enuf to try anyone's temper, for she were all painted and floured up, and, in course, 'ad to wipe it off arf of 'er face with 'er 'ankercher, and a complexion like a kite's foot for yallerness underneath.

But she made it all right, for I see 'er arterwards like the rosy morn, as the sayin' is, a-walkin' in the transcrip a-listenin' to the orgin, as don't sound that solem' like a church, but were a-playin' fancy tunes as I don't care to 'ear; tho' in course the Old 'Underth would be out of place at a Cat Show, as was the next time as I went.

And certingly I never did see finer speciments of what the party as was a showin' 'em called "the feelin' specious."

And well he might; for I've knowed cats myself with a deal more feelin' than Christshuns, partikler with their kittens, as they don't never let starve while they're a-goin' about gaddin' like young Mrs. Dewlap, as said she couldn't be troubled with nussin', and brought the infant up with the bottle as broke down under it, and were a-'overin' between life and death for nearly two days, and then took a turn, as was all neglect.

But, law, there was lovely cats to be sure in cages, not as I'm one to make a fool of no animals myself, tho' in course a brass collar is all werry well in a tortus-shell Tom, as 'ave been known to fetch five pounds, but not a pattern as I cares for in a cat, as think a dark tabby worth twenty on 'im; though I'm sure ourn, as were as black as your 'at, with a eye like a gooseberry for greenness, and 'is 'abit-shirt like the driven snow for whiteness, as took a pride in 'isself, and wouldn't never go near the coal-cellar, and never cared about 'avin of 'is meals in the washus, I could 'ave showed 'im and took a prize, I do believe, but for that old beast, Old Sinful, as cut 'im off in 'is prime with 'is pisoned liver on the top of the wall, as come 'ome to 'im in the janders that wery next week.

But certingly that Cristshul Pallis is the place for to improve the mind, and even cats must be improved by them shows; for I do believe as they reg'lar enjoyed a-seein' the company, the same as the dogs did, for there was dogs at the dog show, as was jest afore, as barked incessant, and some on 'em 'owled all thro' the music, as shows as they must 'ave ears.

But wot I glories in is the Rorytorios as they 'as, not as I should 'ave went on my own 'ook, as the sayin' is, but were let in thro' a friend, and of all the 'evanly music, as was enuf to bring down the

roof, partikler when they all sung out the Ailstone Chorus, as I said it's a mussy as they don't bring one down on 'em, 'cos that there Cristshul Pallis would look rather dickey arter Ailstones the size of 'ens' eggs, as I've read on in the papers, tho' never see one myself bigger than a nut, and that did for our skylight and smashed all the winders oppersite, thro' the wind a-settin' that way, and reg'lar flooded the kitchins all along the New Road, and put out the fires, as was the fust of August, so in course fires wasn't wanted only for cookin', as spilte many a good dinner, no doubt, as certingly is werry provokin'

But, law, talkin' of dinners, there was capital wittles at the Cristshul Pallis, and 'owever they purwides for so many, I can't think, as the broken wittles must be enuf to keep a parish. I thinks as it would be werry nice if parties could live in that Pallis, as might 'ave turn-up beds in them galleries, tho' it certingly would cost a deal of money for musling curtins to the winders.

But if you lived there altogether, you could 'ave everything that 'andy, and never needn't leave the place; but then parties wouldn't never be satisfied, so preaps arter all it's better jest to go and spend the day now and then—or if you're a-livin' close by, as I were with Mrs. Selwyn, and did used to pop in now and then like.

But, law bless me, nobody wouldn't know Penge, as did used to be quite country, and is now a wilderness of bricks and mortar, as the sayin' is.

But wot I did like was them Flower Shows, for of all the lovely roses, they was like picters, not but wot I do think as them parties as picked 'em did ought to 'ave been punished, and then to throw 'em down close agin were I were a-settin' unawares, and sayin' as it were the stout party as the flower belonged to.

As I says to the man as come and taxed me with it, I says, "Do you think as I ain't more the lady than comes to for to purline a flower, and then stoop to a false'ood for to cover it. No!" I says, "I never laid a finger on the flower."

So that other party she were a-sayin', as if it were 'er last words, she'd declare as she never picked the rose; and jest then there come sich a clap of thunder as made 'er turn that dreadful faint and ill as they 'ad to take 'er to the cloak-room for to bring 'er to, as did ought to be a warnin' to any one not to go on like that, as is low, mean ways; not as I thinks as the thunder come 'cos of that, 'cos thunder 'd 'ave enuf to do if it was to speak out when parties told lies.

But all as I've got to say, never take anybody else's children to the Cristshul Pallis, nor nowhere's else, leastways not if they're like Jemima Walker;

as of all the young limbs as ever I met with she's the wust, and sich a child to tell lies, as you wouldn't believe was in 'er at six and a arf, and 'er mother that dclicate as can't 'ave 'er at 'ome; so her aunt, as is Mrs. Arbut's arf-sister's niece, in the name of Wildin', shc 'ad 'er stoppin' along with 'er, 'cos of 'er father layin' in to 'er with the leg of a chair, as ain't a proper thing for to chastise a child with, tho' she did upset the baby in its little bassinet, and set fire to the Sunday paper as 'er grandfather werc a-readin', and nearly frizzled the old feller, as wouldn't be no loss.

So the day as we was a-goin' to the Cristshul Pallis I 'ad to see Miss Wildin' as is in the corset line, for I couldn't wear the last pair as she sent me, thro' the shoulder-straps a-cuttin' me like razors, and when she 'eard where I were a-goin' said as she'd 'ave come too only but for that little gal.

"Oh!" I says, "let 'er come, for we're only a-goin' friendly like."

Well that child, I could sec, didn't want to come, but she no sooner said so than 'er aunt said as she should, and give her a good shakin'

Well, I thinks to myself, that's a good way to begin a treat.

So I says, "Oh! she's goin' to be a good gal, I know," but the child, she only made idjeous faces

at me, as 'er aunt see 'er and give 'er a good 'ard smack.

So I says, "Never mind, it's only 'er childish ways."

Says 'er aunt, "I do mind, I'll break 'er sperrit."

I thought, "Will you?" for I see she'd got a nice strong one.

It so 'appened as Miss Wildin' 'ad 'ad words with the party as she lodged with, over 'avin 'ad her coals made too free with, and give notice to leave them lodgins jest as I dropped in, and 'eard the party as 'ad the 'ouse say to 'er, "If you adn't a give me notice I should you, for the way as you ill-treats that child, as, in my opinion, you wants to murder."

So I says, "My good woman, you didn't ought to talk like that, as is a label on any one's character as might stick to 'em for life."

She says, "Oh! no doubt you're one of the gang."

I didn't take no notice, but went into Miss Wildin's room and shet the door, 'cos I wasn't a-goin' to waste my breath over a arf-cast nigger, with a woolley 'ead, and as 'er nose were flat to 'er face thro' 'avin' 'ad the cartridge on it broke with the barrel of a rifle, as fell down on her face, a-belongin' to 'er son as were a 'angin' over the fireplace.

We went to the Cristshul Pallis, and never did I

'ave sich arternoon, for that gal, she took and climbed about the place like a rangy-tang, and I do believe would 'ave 'ung from them i'on beams by 'er tail if she'd 'ave one, and then she nearly pitched into the Cristshul Fountin, and said as the old fat woman, meanin' me, 'ad give 'er a shove.

I says, "You'll come to a bad end if you goes on like that," and didn't take no more notice of the child, and never give 'er a second thought till weeks arter, when Miss Wildin' 'ad moved over Chelsea way, as I went to see 'er in 'er new lodgins, and there were that little bleared-eyed beast of a gal, as I pitied thro' a-thinkin' as 'er aunt were 'ard on her.

So as Miss Wildin' were werry busy, and not over flush with tin, as the sayin' is, I said as I wouldn't stop to tea unless she'd let me fetch in a few things as she wanted.

So arter a bit she give way, and said as Jemima should go, as could carry 'er little 'and-basket for to 'old the tea and sugar.

I 'ad my misgivins over that child, as looked reg'lar dèmins at me, but thought as she'd like to go, a-thinkin' to buy 'er some bull's-eyes, or something like that.

Well, we got out and turned into Chaney Walk, and that child said as she'd like to see the steamboats.

"Well," I says, "so you shall, my dear, only do be a good gal, as everybody will love."

She didn't say nothink, but kep' a-walkin' and starin' about 'er, as I give 'er warnin' would run agin' a post, and so she did, leastways took and tripped agin a stone, and would 'ave fell if I 'adn't caught 'er by the arm, as made 'er cry out as I'd 'urt 'er.

"Well," I says, "my dear, it wasn't my fault, as did it to save you."

Jest there we met that there arf-cast, where Miss Wildin' did used to lodge, as didn't take no notice of me, but says to the child in passin', "Poor little dear, and they ain't killed you yet atween 'em?"

I scorned the amputation, as 'er words meant, and on I walks, a-sayin' to the little gal, "There, don't cry no more, and we'll go on the bridge and see the steamers go under," as we did accordin', tho' that child kep' on a wimperin' and a cryin'

There was werry few parties on the bridge when we got there, as is a rickety old thing, as were built on a tonteen, I've 'eard say, and is all fell now on to one old lady, as 'ave outlived everybody else as built it; so get's all the swag, as I should say she couldn't enjoy, for she must be a wonderful age to 'ave lived to see a bridge wear out.

But then Old Chelsea Church is a tremenjous

age, as is where Old 'Arry did used to go to church, not as it's a place as you'd look for 'im in; but then there's no tellin' wot games them kings is up to, 'cos look at pious Old Willyam with 'is 'im-book.

Well, we got on the bridge, as is a apenny each, and stood a-waitin' for a steamer to come under, and werry soon one were 'ove in sight, as the sayin' is; as when I see it a-comin' I lifted that child up for to see it well a-goin' under the harch, leastways, wot did ought to be a harch.

Jest then, they let down the chimbly of that steamer with a roar as made me jump; and as to the child, she give sich orful screams and kicked like mad, so as I couldn't 'old 'er, but 'ad to lean 'er agin the bridge; when up rushes a man, and ketches 'old of me, and says, "Oh! you wile old 'ussy; and in broad daylight, too!"

I says, "Wot do you mean?"

"Why," he says, "a-tryin' to drownd that poor child."

I says, "You're mad."

"No," he says, "I ain't; and there's a party as put me up to your wicked ways. So come along."

He ketched up the child and 'eld me by the arm and 'urries back to the tole-'ouse, and there was that wile, pergid, arf-cast nigger wretch as 'ad got a perliceman, and was a-sayin' as it were a reg'lar

plant; and when I mentioned the name of Miss Wildin', if she didn't say, "Ah! that's the other!"

I do believe as that poor child were terrified, for she screamed:

"Oh! please don't drownd me; and don't let auntie 'urt me!"

I didn't know what to do, so said as I were willin' to go to the station with the perlice, as weren't far off; and certingly the inspector were a werry nice man, as said it were all foolishness, and give it the perlice and the arf-cast pretty 'ot.

But it was nearly seven when we got back to Miss Wildin's, as were in a orful fidget, a-thinkin' as I'd took the child out in a boat and been upset. The child's mother were there, as only larfed at the idea; so we 'ad tea friendly, as adwised 'er to take 'er child 'ome and manidge it 'erself, "for," I says, "there ain't nothink like a parent's eye over a child; and no 'and but a parent's shouldn't never chastise, and then not with a broom 'andle."

Not but wot a schoolmaster must 'ave 'is cane, if he only knows 'ow to use it proper, in safe parts, as may raise a bruise, but never break a bone.

But yet all the same for that, I never would take a child out a-pleasurin' without a parent, 'cos if anythink should go wrong you gets no thanks, tho' no more to blame than the babe unborn, as the sayin' is.

I'm sure it's no wonder as Queen Wictorier bust

into tears when she 'eard as they was a-goin' to pull the Cristshul Pallis down out of 'Igh Park, as was so 'andy for 'er to pop in whenever she liked, as took a pride and a pleasure in it; not but wot it's a lovely spot where it stands now, and not too near the sea, so as none of them cannin balls couldn't smash the glass, if the Prooshins were to come with them needle-guns a-firin' at Old England, 'cos in course they dursn't land, or they'd soon get toko, as the sayin' is; but might send their ships, as as would be a fine sight off Dover, with Queen Wictorier a-ridin' along the clifts on 'er charger, a-shakin' of 'er royal fist at 'em, a-sayin, "Come if you dare," as would make that old pious hemperor go on 'is marrer-bones, and Beastmark shake in his 'ighlows.

Brown, he will 'ave it as war is a brewin', and won't listen to reason, that's me a sayin' as it ain't likely as parties will get a fightin' when they're all a-ritin' so friendly.

Not but wot I wouldn't give much for old Beastmark's 'ide if the French was to ketch 'im up a blind alley some fine day; for tho' I don't 'old with wars and fightin's, yet I certingly should like to see 'im angin' by the 'eels, as the sayin' is.

Brown, he considers that Hemp'ror of Horstrier a reg'lar sneak for to go to meet that Wictor Manuel over at Wenis and shake 'ands over it, as

is werry like askin' of a burglar to come and dine with you the next day arter he's been and broke into your 'ouse, and carried off all the swag.

But, as I says, poor devil, he ain't got much of a life of it, with Beastmark a one side and them Ightalians the other, as is both waggerbones in my opinion, for I can't a-bear no wrongs nor robberies, whether it's Beastmark or Bonypart or Grabidaldi or Jack Shepperd or the garroters, nor your pious bankers, as is all tarred with the same brush, and will get their desserts some day, as the sayin is, the same as all them Neros as you reads on in 'istory, as angin' were a deal too good for the lot on 'em, as didn't aught to 'ave 'ad Cristshun berrial, tho' there is a lot on 'em, in Westminster Habbey, not as they're werry partiklar who they berries there nowadays; and I 'ave 'eard say as there ain't no Jew as would give a thankee for the honour, as likes their own berrial-grounds, as did used to be in the Mile End Road, and weren't a cheerful spot I must say, tho' kep' decent, as is wot all simmingterries did ought to be, and not like old St. Pancrush Churchyard, as is a downright disgrace.

I were pleased that day, as I see that Capting Boyton down at the Cristshul Pallis, with 'is wonderful suit of clothes for a-savin' life at sea, as can take to the water like a duck, as the sayin' is, and

float about for ever. Not like those amphberous creeturs as can't live on dry land and dies in the water.

But, law bless me! as Mrs. Partlett were a-sayin', what a thing it would be if a 'ole army were to put on them dresses, like Julius Seizer, and come over and land at Dover and take us all pris'ners?

In course it give me a turn at first when she said it; but I weren't a-goin' to show no white feathers, as the sayin' is, so I says, "My good soul, don't you think as the English would take and lay down like lambs to be eat up. Not a bit on it; for it's a deal more likely as we should go over to France and put them down, with their riverlutions and hempires, and all the rest of their rubbish, always a-breakin' the peace!"

But I must say it give me a shock when I 'eard as that Capting Boyton were a-goin' into the water afore sich crowds; but when I 'eard as he were goin' to 'ave a suit of clothes on as would cover 'im all over, with a week's purvishuns in it, and all 'is little comforts, like a canoo, why I says, "Anybody would go to sea with them things on."

Not as ever I should think of tryin' to paddle my own canoo, as the sayin' is, nor yet keep afloat for weeks, for I'm sure as my 'ead would swim under water, as would make me faint away; and I do 'ope as Queen Wictorier won't go a-tryin of it on, 'cos,

tho' she do rule the waves, yet somc'ow somethink might go wrong in the water; tho' in course she wouldn't go out of 'er depth, thro' being quite at 'ome in the Ile of White.

'Cos, for my part, I don't 'old with a divin' bell, tho' they 'ave done wonders in pickin' up things out of wrecks; and I do 'ope as they'll 'ave them dresses aboard all them hemigrant ships as goes to the bottom, 'cos then the poor things will only 'ave jest to slip on their waterproofs, and go ashore 'ow they pleases.

I never did know a place as wanted more refreshmints to keep you up than that Cristshul Pallis, as certingly you meets with at every turn; so there ain't no occasion to take nothink with you. Not as ever I goes out myself without my little precautions, as I calls 'em, agin the spavins, or cramps, as I'm that subject to that I wouldn't trust myself in the water, not with all the captings in the world.

For I'm sure I'd took nothink that day, as we all went down to the Cristshul Pallis in Easter week for a reg'lar day, as was eight in party, and all that jolly, thro' gettin' into different carridges, and some a-goin' 'igh level and some low. So we didn't meet till close on three, and then Mrs. Partlett 'ad 'ad a reg'lar row with Mrs. Bewlay, thro' Mrs. Partlett 'avin' lost 'er shawl, as she asked Miss

Pilkinton to 'old for 'er a minit, as 'ung it over Mrs. Bewlay's arm, as put it on the railins while a-lookin' for 'er ticket; and some one took it off when 'er 'ead were turned, no doubt by mistake, 'cos, in course, it ain't likely as reg'lar thieves would go out for a 'ollyday at the Cristshul Pallis, as never can't enjoy theirselves with a clear conscience nowheres, as the sayin' is.

Jest arter we met there was poor Mrs. Ablitt a-faintin' away, as 'ad been parted from Ablitt over nine years, and met 'im fust full butt on the stairs, as nearly sent 'er backards with the shock; and then 'er son-in-law, in the name of Truscitt, took it up in the afternoon, thro' a-comin' on 'im a-takin' tea along with a fieldmale, so went up and called 'im all the waggerbones he could lay 'is tung to, and shook 'is fist in 'is face; as made that poor old lady as was with 'im scream out, as proved to be 'is mother, as made me up and speak, and say it were disgraceful.

So Mrs. Ablitt she turned on me, and all on 'em said it weren't no business of mine to interfere.

So I jest walked myself off and 'ad a drop on the quiet close agin the machinery a overlookin' the terris, and it's well I 'ad a little somethink with me, for the smell of the ile in the fire-injin give me that turn as made me feel all overish, as 'ad got up in a quiet corner jest close behind a injin as I rested my

back agin; as give me time to think over all manner, as is wot I likes at the Cristshul Pallis.

But some'ow I couldn't get that Boyton out of my 'ead, as were esplainin' 'is bathin' dress to me, tho' I said as I shouldn't care to be shet up in a thing like that.

"Oh!" he says, "Queen Wictorier is a-goin' to 'ave one to go out to Injier with."

I says, "You don't mean to say as she's a-goin' "

"Yes I am," says a woice close behind me, and there she were, bless 'er royal 'art, lookin' that nice, tho' always sorrers in 'er face.

So I says, "Excuse me, your Majisty; but don't you think as Injy is running of a risk." I didn't say at your time of life, as would be rude to a Queen, but that's wot I meant.

So I says, "Considerin' that Lord Mayew, as they killed, 'cos I don't believe as them Injins loves a bone in our body; and why should they?"

"Oh!" says a bishop, as were a-settin' oppersite, eatin' of a penny ice, "'aven't we given 'em the blessins of Cristyanity?"

"Oh!" I says, "no doubt, as is the reason as they're all sich good moral characters, and is all thro' the good esample as the Cristshuns 'as set 'em."

Sir Cardnal Wolsey, he were a-sharin' of a pork-pie with old Dizzy, and he says, "Don't I long to 'ave a turn at that old Beastmark."

"I won't 'ave Proosher interfered with," says Queen Wictorier, a-puttin' down 'er foot with one of 'er looks, as makes tyrants to tremble, as the sayin' is.

So I says to that bishop, "There is goin' to be a row over there soon, in my opinion, and that's no doubt why them young children of that Prince of Proosher is bein' sent over 'ere, as is a-goin' to 'Astins, I see in the papers, as is werry proper, for I'm sure as Queen Wictorier don't want to be bothered with children; and in course the Princess of Wales don't want more in 'er nursery, as might bring on the measles."

Says Queen Wictorier, a-frownin' at a party as were eatin' of a roll and a saveloy as he'd got in 'is 'at, as he couldn't wear on 'is 'ead 'cos of 'is wig, as is wot I knowed he were a judge by.

Says she, a-clearin' of 'er throat for to speak deep, 'cos she've got sich a silver woice, as I've 'eard say it's a pleasure to be scolded by 'er. She says, "My lud, if ever I ketches you a-cryin' up prize-fights agin, I shall certingly unbench and disbar you, as'll be a-gettin' up meetins in the park next, as is the werry lowest of the low."

"Who's a-goin' to Moody and Sankey?" says Card'nal Mannin'

"I," says Dean Stanley, "as is a fancy-ball at her Majesty's Theater. I am engaged for the first

cadrille with Spurgin, only he's got the gout so bad as he can't wear nothink but a list shoe."

"Wot busyness 'ave he got with the gout?" says the Archbishop of Canterbury, as belongs to the 'Stablished Church.

"Ah! but it's a-goin' to be throwed open to all," I says; "and if you don't believe me, ask Queen Wictorier if it ain't true."

So jest then a party says to me, "Wot busyness 'ave you a-skulkin' 'ere?"

I says, "I'm a-spendin' of the arternoon with Queen Wictorier at 'er faverite home, as is, we all knows, the Cristshul Pallis."

He bust out larfin', and says, "That's a good 'un. Come, wake up, old soul;" and if it wasn't one of them parties as works about the Pallis, as said I should 'ave been locked in all night if my snores 'adn't caught 'is ear in goin' upstairs. I might 'ave been starved with cold and devoured by rats in the night.

So I says, "Ah! it's my dreams as is my banes."

He says, "Your drains, you mean."

"Why," I says, "wot do you mean? I ain't one of them drinkin' characters."

"Well," he says, "you smells of sperrits like a wine waults."

I says, "I smells sperrits certingly, as can'

be me so strong as this; yet," I says, "I don't know either."

He says, "But I do."

So I feels in my redicule, and if the cork 'adn't been and come out of my little flat bottle, and all the licker 'ad run out and sattyrated everythink.

So I says, "Law, 'ow provokin' "

"Oh!" he says, "you can get plenty more; 'cos," he says, "it's no doubt a disappointment to you to 'ave lost your licker, and yet be as sober as you are."

I says, "Young man, no insults if you please. This 'ere little bottle 'ad my drops in it, as is cardymums mixed with fine old cognac, as can't be bought anywheres, as is a thing I dursn't move out of my 'ome without, thro' bein' subject to them sudden attacks, as 'ave been knowed to end fatal."

"Well," he says, "I can't stop to ear about that now, and you'd better look slippy, or you'll miss your 'igh level, as I see your ticket is for."

So I give 'im a sixpence thro' bein' that perlite as to show me my way out, as was almost dark, and didn't get to Mrs. Padwick's as I were a stoppin' along with, till jest on 10 o'clock.

I didn't say a word to Miss Pilkinton, as I went with that time, taty-taty, as the sayin' is, about leavin' me behind, as said as she thought I'd gone to see my friend at Penge, tho' she know'd as well

as I did as Mrs. Selwyn 'ad left the place ten days afore Easter, as were a deal too cold for to enjoy yourself.

I was glad to get to bed, not as I got to rest, for I'd got that Cristshul Pallis on the brain as the 'Merrykins says, and it did 'aunt me all night.

Fust I was a-goin' across the rope on Blondin's back, and then a-divin' into the founting along with Boyton; and could 'ear the orgin, a playin' with all the bands together and me a singin' with all my might and main, Rule Britannier. Then I was a-drinkin' tea in Ninnywy along with them big kings in the ringlets, and then up come them denuded savidges in their nasty coffee-coloured skins, a-wantin' me to jine a war dance, and then some rude boys got 'old on me, and would 'oist me on to the camel's back, as broke down with my wait, like the last straw, as the sayin' is.

Then Queen 'Lizzybeth she come down out of 'er nitch and glares at me, a-sayin', "Give 'er the rack; she's always abusin' me and that dear old toad, Beastmark, as is one of the right sort, and I loves like a brother;" and then she took and set down close to Queen Wictorier, as werry properly got up and give 'er dress a shake, not a-likin' to be mixed up with sich a party; a-sayin' as she were sorry as she couldn't ask 'er to stop all night, thro' 'avin' a fam'ly, as she didn't wish to 'ave no bad

esample before their eyes. As made Queen 'Lizzybeth swear like blazes, and ketched poor old Dizzy sich a smack o' the face, as sent 'im up in a corner a-wimperin' with 'is 'ankercher to 'is nose, as made Gladstin give a grin, tho' he took good care to keep out of old Betsey's way, as glared at 'im; and then took and turned on me and says, "Let me give you a turn, for you're a-layin' on your back too much."

"Ah!" I says, "that's all thro' me a-fallin' off that dratted camel, as is only a stuffed thing, and not up to my wait."

"Do wake up," she says, "or I'll give you a good pinch."

I says, "You'll get a 'ot 'un from me back agin if you do."

So she give me a shake, as made me fly at 'er; and if it wasn't Mrs. Padwick as 'ad jest come up to bed, and said as she found me a-mutterin' all manner on my back, with my mouth wide open, and my eyes a-starin', as 'ad been 'avin more of my dreams.

And I don't think as cold line of pork don't suit me at night, tho' it were as tender as chicken, as the sayin' is, and not over fat, as I'm sure the chickens ain't nowadays, as 'as their breast-bones a-stickin' out of their skins, and nothink on their backs.

As to Mrs. Partlett, she 'ad a reg'lar illness,

thro' one she bought at the door, tho' she is that partikler, as wouldn't touch nothink at the Cristshul Pallis, and jeered at me for sayin' as the weal and 'am pie were delicious, and never eat a better sallid, tho' it do kill the beer as is why I 'ad a bit of cheese for to relish it.

But Mrs. Partlett, she went 'ome to a rabbit pie for supper, as is a thing I 'ates, and it's a mussy as she see the mornin' thro' it, as couldn't have been sweet I should say, or preaps the pickled pork a little on the go, as 'ave been knowed to turn in a night, and I'd as lief eat whitelead myself, as doubtful pig meat, as is always a risk unless you knows the shop, tho' I 'ave 'eard of parties as buys it tainted, and will take and wash it in some of them there doderizin' fluids, as brings it round agin, but wouldn't never soot me. 'Cos, as I always says, a little bit of anythink as is 'olesome goes a long way further than a 'ole jinte as is on the turn.

I must say as I'm more pleased with that there Acquaryium at the Cristshul Pallis every time as I sees it, tho', in course, it ain't as large as Brighton, 'cos of bringin' the sea water that far; but the fishes looks quite as 'appy, as, in course, don't know 'ow far they are off their briny native helefant.

I must say as the soles looked that nat'ral, jest for all the world as tho' they were egged and crumbed and ready fried, as I've 'eard say as the

fishes is when they're took out of the Red Sea, as did ought to be called the Red 'ot Sea, tho' it must be a great conwenience for to be able to ketch your fish ready cooked, partikler for parties as is ship'recked on a raft.

Not as there'll be any more of them games now as Boyton 'ave been inwented; not as I should be worth much myself, arter bein' tossed about in the sea for fifteen 'ours, 'owever Capting Boyton might dress me up, or send me out a-floatin' on bladders with a cork jacket on, nor yet a injy-rubber belt, as nearly drowned old Portlock at 'Astins, as went out of 'is depth in one round 'is waist, as slipped down and got round 'is ancles, so turned 'im upside down; as was see thro' a telescope, a-floatin' with 'is toes uppermost, and saved thro' a fishin' boat, as mistook 'is feet for soles.

But, law, if I were a fish, I certingly should not like to go a-swimmin' about where the lobsters is, as 'ides theirselves in 'oles of rocks, and looks like blue devils a-waitin' to pounce out on you.

I'm sure as crabs is sulky tempers, for they don't seem never to be sociable with nothink else; but them plaice looks werry nice, not as they're fish as I cares for, tho' the Jews do fry 'em lovely.

They said as one flat fish were skate, but all as I can say is, I never see it look like that, as is in general all crimped scarlet, and looks werry nice.

But, law, give me them fishmongers in Bond Street for to show off fish for 'eatin', as shows as natur ain't everythink, not even with fish; and in my opinion a 'ole cod ain't to be named in the same day with slices, tho' it makes all the difference, it's bein' fresh; tho' you may have some fish too fresh, as will boil all squashy if it ain't left to get solid, arter comin' out of the sea, afore it's put in the pot.

I never can abear eels, as 'ave been knowed to lump out of the fryin'-pan into the fire, as the sayin' is, and 'as more lives than cats, as is why they don't mind bein' skinned alive, and will move arter that.

But let us 'ope as there won't be another fire at the Cristshul Pallis, 'cos it would be 'ard lines for them poor fishes to be biled in their own tanks; 'cos they couldn't run away, not even if they was to get out, as is thro' bein' that 'elpless they wouldn't know where to swim to without water.

There was lovely picters to be see upstairs at the Cristshul Pallis, and I'm sure there's room enuff for to 'ang all the picters as ever was painted, tho' they do say as there's such crowds on 'em sent to that there 'cademy in Piccadilly as can't arf be looked at, let alone 'ung up.

I was a-'earin a young man a-sayin', as is in the ile and colour line, as is a-payin' of his attentions to Mrs. Padwick's niece, over tea Sunday evenin', wot

a row there is over them picters every year, thro' not bein' took in, and 'ow them young painter fellers goes on agin' the old 'uns as won't let 'em in; as if it was likely as the old birds would 'ave the bread took out of their mouths by a parcel of boys.

But why ever don't them as can't 'ave their picters 'ung up in Piccadilly, send 'em to the Cristshul Pallis, where they'd be well seen, and if good, no doubt parties would buy 'em fast enuf and jump at 'em too.

I must say as I do wish as there wasn't them cracks in the floor, as brought me up suddin, ever so many times, and snapped off the ferril of my umbreller in the end, as made me step backwards on a party's foot, as forgot the gentleman, and said as he never knowed as the helefant walked about loose anywheres but in the Jewlogical Gardins, as I shouldn't 'ave knowed were illudin' to me only Miss Toovey she'd told me on it, as in course might 'ave made things werry unpleasant, for if that young man didn't turn out the ile and colour man, and jined us at tea at Mrs. Padwick's, as never thought of seein of me there, as shows as nobody didn't ought to make no rude remarks to nobody about nobody else, as ain't good manners in a public place where you don't know who is who.

But of all the impident minxes as ever I did meet with, it's that Mrs. Turveydrop as lives oppersite

me, and they do say 'er 'usban' is only a traveller in the 'olesale buttin line, as is never at 'ome 'ardly; and to see that woman go out dressed, you'd say as it was Queen Wictorier's drorin' room, at the werry least, as she were a-goin' to.

Tho' she were a near naybour, never a woman as I 'ardly exchanged a word with, thro' not a-fancyin' 'er looks, till that time as I lost our cat, and then jest asked 'er if she'd seen 'im anywhere about 'er front gardin, as certingly were werry perlite in askin' of me to walk in, and told me 'ow 'er pa 'ad kep' his carridge, as 'er ma's death 'ad broke 'is 'art when she were born. I didn't never fancy that woman, nor yet the man, as she said were 'er brother-in-law, as lived there.

Well, that time as I went to the Cristshul Pallis in Easter week, who should I meet but Mrs. Turveydrop, tossed off as fine as a 'orse, as the sayin' is, tho' nothink but rubbish on 'er back, and the paint and powder arf a inch thick over 'er face, as you could see through 'er wail.

She were that friendly in seein' of me, and I were afeard as she wanted to jine our party, as she said she felt lonesome a-waitin' for 'er brother, so I didn't say nothink, but only answered, "No doubt you are."

When she said as she see 'im a-comin', and off she 'urried.

Well, arter a bit, jest as we was a-goin' to tea, she come along, and I were a-talkin' to young Tipcoff, when up she come to our table a-smilin', and says to me, "Dear old friend, escuse me, but I've lost my puss, and 'ave you any silver?"

"Well," I says, "not above a shillin' or two, as I couldn't spare."

"Oh!" says young Tipcoff, "I've plenty;" and out he pulls nine or ten shillins, with arf a sov'rin' among 'em.

She says, "Oh! that will do nicely;" and were a-goin' to collar the lot, but I puts my 'and on to that young man's, over the money, and says, "No!"

I says to him, "Wot you lends you lends to me, so give me the money," and I takes the lot; and then I turns to Mrs. Turveydrop, and says, "If arf-a-crown will 'elp you 'ome, take it in welcome."

She says, "I don't see what you've got to do with it; the gentleman were a-goin' to lend it to me."

I says, "You thought you'd caught a flat, did you?"

She says, "You're a nasty foul-mouthed old devil."

I says, "I'm glad I knows your opinion of me, 'cos now I shall keep my friend's money for my true friends;" and I were a-turnin' away, when she

rushed by me like a whirlwind, as the sayin' is, a-sayin' we was a gang of thieves, as she were a-disgracin' of 'erself in talkin' to, thro' bein' the lady bred and born, and sent me a-flyin' backards on to a waiter full of cups and sarsers; and it's lucky it weren't near where the Cristshul Founting did used to be, as would be werry unpleasant for to set down in up to your waist; and it's a mussy as them cups and sarsers was empty and not easy broke, or I might 'ave rolled on to 'em, as might 'ave cut me to death, and been the death of that waiter too, a-comin' down on 'im suddin; as 'ad bilin' water in a jug as drenched my gownd, and 'ad to dry me in the cloak-room, as should 'ave been in a nice mess if it 'adn't been too early for muslings.

But talkin' of gold fish reminds me of some little 'uns as I see in the Acquaryium, as was called telescopes, as I wanted for to see partikler, a thinkin' naturally as they'd shet up and draw out, and as you could see right thro' 'em, but they wasn't nothink but werry nice little gold-fish a swimmin' about as comes from Chiney, as is the land of tea, tho' I'm sure as they're a stickin' a lot of rubbish into us, as I don't believe ever see no Chiney beyond a teacup, and wasn't growed anywheres out of London; as a deal on it ain't fit to drink.

But, law, if you reads about the 'orful 'dulteration

as goes on, you can't believe as you're eatin' and drinkin' anythink as is 'olesome; not as I thinks much about that myself, for parties always was full of their fancies, and some can't eat one thing and some another, as shows as wot's one man's meat's another man's pison, as the sayin' is, as means, as them as keeps shops sells the pisons, as them as buys eats it for meat.

But 'ow poor people is to live I can't think nowadays, when a sov'rin don't go no further than twelve shillins did used to when I was married, and parties is wuss off than when the quartern loaf were arf-a-crown, as was the year as my dear mother married; but, then, look at 'ouse rent now, and butchers' meat, and nothink cheap but rubbish, as is luxuries as parties could do without, and I must say as busses is cheap, and so is tramways, as saves your legs, and, in course, your shoe-leather; but, then, look wot rubbish boots and shoes werry often is, compared with my recollections, as did used to last for years, tho' they did run into money to buy 'em.

But for all that, tho' things is so dear, yet parties will always find money to amuse theirselves, 'cos look at the crowds at the Cristshul Pallis, and now there's another a-goin' to be opened out Muswell 'Ill way, and the crowds as was a-comin' out of Moody and Sankey, as 'ad been a-'oldin' forth at

Her Majesty's Theayter the other day, as Mrs. Blarney were mad to get me to go to.

I says, "Not if I knows it; when I goes to the theayter I goes to the theayter, and when I goes to church I goes to church," as should as soon think of 'avin' a circus in St. Paul's, as would be a noble size, as 'ave a lot of parties a-preachin' and a-prayin' in a play-'ouse, 'cos, in course, your thoughts would foller your eyes, and you'd be a-thinkin' about play-actin' all thro' the prayin'

"Oh!" says Mrs. Blarney, "but it's her Majesty's Theayter, as in course 'olds with Moody and Sankey, or else she wouldn't allow it."

I says, "We all knows as it's all the same to 'er wot they does in them theayters, 'cos she never goes to none on 'em now, but I'm sure as she don't 'old with anythink out of place."

'Cos how can you be a thinkin' serous, when things as would make you larf comes into your 'ead, 'cos if your eye were to ketch sight of Punch and Judy a passin' while you was in church, if you didn't smile you'd be 'avin of thoughts about Judy and Toby in your 'ead, as is werry amusin' tho' they ain't proper in church, where you did ought to think solemn, as is why I think as they're right in 'avin of picters in them forrin churches, as in course ketches your eye and turns your thoughts the right way.

"But," I says, "it's my opinion as it's because that there theayter in the 'Aymarket is too big, and nobody won't 'ave it; so they're glad to let it out to Moody and Sankey, as pays a deal better than many a theayter, as must be a-coinin' of money, and gets a deal more than any nigger minstrels, as is that plentiful nowadays as it's dog eat dog, as the sayin' is, and in course a nigger minstrel may take a turn and go in for religion, like anyone else, and he'll find it pay fust-rate, to say nothink of the refreshments as is throwed in, over and above five good meals a-day, as 'aven't 'eard whether they goes in for teetotalers, and shouldn't think as they go a-givin' up their comforts like that, as would be a-cuttin' of theirselves out of many a good thing."

But, as I said before, I don't consider it religion to go a-crowdin' into a theayter, and be squeezed up all of a 'eap, and your toes trod on with your pocket picked; and poor Hem'ly Bell she were that pinched and bruised, as 'ad asterrics afore they could get 'er out; so prefers takin' of serous things more quiet like myself, and try to do my duty by a-doin' as I'd be done by; and as to me bein' a wessel of wrath, as Miss Toovey said I were, when I 'ad to back up Mrs. Padwick about 'er bein' picked up in licker off the stairs, why I don't mind. As I says to her, "I'll take my chance over that, as am thankful as I ain't a-goin' to be judged by

you, nor any of your cantin' lot; as makes a good livin' out of it, and don't live on nothink but the fat of the land, as the sayin' is."

But, law, it's a strange world, and there's tricks in all trades, as the sayin' is.

But, I must say, of all the impident things as ever I did know, it were Mrs. Prudall a-wearin' of my new bonnet for a weddin' when my back was turned, as she told the gal I'd lent her, and wouldn't be on 'er 'ead more than arf a 'our, only jest for the Register Hoffice; 'cos she'd told me that couple wasn't a-goin' to church to be married, thro' bein' no sex in partikler, and 'im a reg'lar out-and-out blasfemer in the parks of a Sunday.

"Well," I says, "I wish any one luck of sich a 'usban', as must be a waggerbone." And true my words proved; not as they found 'im out that day, the same as I did Mrs. Prudall in my bonnet, thro' a-meetin' of 'er, and all the weddin' party, in the Cristshul Pallis.

Leastways they come full butt on me, as the sayin' is, as were a settin' down among them plants, close agin them doors as leads to the Acquaryium. I'd got a pork pie and a glass of pale ale afore me, but 'adn't eat but a quarter of the pie, when thro' feelin' of a quarm I got out my little flat bottle, jest for a thimbleful, for I felt that done up as take somethink I must, thro' it bein' a close day and me

a-waitin' for the others as 'ad missed the train, thro' a-misunderstandin' me, and never turned up till jest on four o'clock, and I'd started from 'ome on a cup of tea by eleven.

So in course I required a somethink by one, and jest as I were a-goin' to 'ave a drain, who should I see but Mrs. Prudall a-flarin' about with a noisy lot, with my new bonnet arf off 'er 'ead.

So I says to 'er, "Pon my word, mum, you're a cool one, as left it safe on my bed when I come out, and 'ad showed it to Mrs. Prudall, as 'ad come in early that mornin' to borrer a little silver of me, and said it were a love, as I told 'er I weren't a-goin' to wear, tho' goin' out, thro' the weather bein' doubtful, not as I said a word about the Cristshul Pallis.

So when she'd watched me out, as she could thro' livin' jest at the corner, she went over and got my bonnet thro' a-tellin' the gal a lot of lies about me a-lendin' it to 'er, as ain't got no more 'ead than a pin, as the sayin' is, or she'd never 'ave let 'er take it off like that.

So I shakes my knife at 'er as I'd got in my 'and, and if she didn't 'oller out quite loud, "Hullo, 'ere's old Mother Brown drunk agin."

I thought I should 'ave sunk thro' the floor, and let 'er skuttle off bonnet and all, as come back to me two days arter crumpled up like a collar as 'ad

been out in the rain, and soaked thro' with all the black dye out of 'er 'air, as is grease as she uses.

So I set 'er down as no lady, as wouldn't borrer anyone's things and then abuse 'em to the milk-woman.

They say you did ought to love your naybours as yourself; but, law, it's no use a-talkin', for nobody couldn't never love Old Sinful, as the werry dogs growls at in passin'; nor yet Mrs. Prudall; nor yet that creetur, Mrs. Turveydrop, as bolted in the night, so in course ain't no longer a naybour.

As I wish I could say as much of others. For as to Old Sinful, he gets wuss and wusse very day, as stands at 'is back door on the top of 'is steps, and says things agin' me in a laudable woice as can be 'eard both ways; and 'ad the impidence to talk to Mrs. Prudall across the palins, reg'lar under my nose, thro' 'er bein' next door the other side, and thro' a-knowin' as I 'adn't never belicved in that there Ortin feller.

He 'ollers out one mornin', "'Ooray! now all them wile tyrants as would oppress the poor is done for."

"Ooray!" agin says Mrs. Prudall, a-ollerin' back, a-wavin' of 'er duster, euuf to brake the drums of all your ears, as well as the trumpets too, if you was obligated to use one, thro' bein' 'ard of 'earin'. "But," she says, "wot's up?"

"Why," says Old Sinful, "that noble-'arted patriarch, Kidneely, 'ave got into Parlyment;" and he give me a scowl and went in a-bangin' of 'is door.

I didn't say a word to Mrs. Prudall, as was busy over dustin' of some old chairs, but says to Mrs. Cluny, as lives next to 'er, and were a 'arth-stonin' the back-doorsteps, "Ah!" I says, "it's a pity as ever them judges and juries ever made sich a fuss over that waggerbone, as did ought to 'ave been dealt with summery, as the sayin' is; and then he'd 'ave blowed over by this time and been forgot."

Tho' talkin' of bein' blowed over, you never can believe in that, for I never shan't forget poor dear Mrs. Lewkins, as were a-stayin' down at Margit, and last seen a-walkin' along the clifts, arter orderin' of srimps for breakfast, as leads to Broadstairs, and would take you on to Ramsgit if you kep' on long enuff; as 'er 'at and gloves was picked up on the sands below, as raised the alarm, as the sayin' is; and Lewkins in that deep black, even to 'is walkin'-stick, as were like a large stick of black sealin'-wax, as was supposed to be washed out to sea and never 'eard no more on till after he were dead and berried, as were five year arter; and then turned up in the Goswell Road, jest about tea-time, without sendin' a line jest to warn 'er family, but walked straight into the parlour behind

the shop, as if nothink 'adn't 'appened, and nearly frightened 'er dorter into fits, as went under the table with a 'owl, and 'er son, he nearly throwed the kittle at 'er, a-thinkin' as she were a evil sperrit.

But she soon esplained 'ow it were, as 'ad done it to save 'er bit of property bein' done away with from 'er children; for Lewkins 'ad come down to Margit the night afore she were blowed over, with a deed for 'er to sign as would give all 'er little bit of freehold over to 'im, as she found out 'ad been deceivin' her for years with another 'ome.

So said, to put him off, "I won't sign nothink to-night, my dear, but the fust thing arter breakfast;" as they waited for 'er till the rolls was cold, and then set down a-thinkin' as she'd gone to market; but all the while 'ad gone up by the early boat, a-passin' for a inwalid in a large cloak and a wail over 'er 'ead, and was a-layin' on a sofy all the way up the river, and stepped ashore at London Bridge and went to 'er sister, as was at the back of St. George's Church in the Boro'; as Lewkins wasn't never friends with, and wouldn't never let the children go near.

So 'ad the dust reg'lar throwed in his eyes, as the sayin' is, a-thinkin' as she'd been and drownded 'erself.

I don't think as 'er son and dorter was that

pleased at fust to see 'er back agin; but she were a good sort, and turned up jest in time to stop them young people bein' swindled by their father's executor into sellin' the business, as were the 'ole-sale tater line near East Smithfiel', and 'im a reg'lar sneak in the grass, as the sayin' is.

She told me all about it one day as we met 'er down at the Cristshul Pallis, as is where you sees all the world and 'is wife, as the sayin' is.

But, law bless me! there's a many as goes there and leaves their wives at 'ome, as is the way of the world, as I cannot a-bear sich goins on myself, as I told old Joy as I met down there a-swellin' about like a nasty old toad as he is, a crammin' of 'isself with a jolly good dinner, and 'er left at 'ome on a 'errin'

So he says to me, when I asked arter 'er, as she were at 'ome a-washin' of 'is shirt, as every good wife did ought to be.

I says, "If I'd a guzzlin' beast of a 'usban', 'is shirt might stick to 'is back afore I'd wash it for 'im. But," I says, "my 'usban' isn't a long lazy lout of a feller, as would stoop to let 'is wife be a slavin' of 'er 'art out at 'ome, and 'im a eatin' of the bread of idleness, as the sayin' is, not even at the Cristshul Pallis."

But no wonder parties likes a-goin' there, as is a reg'lar fairyland, not but walkin' up and down on

them boards would tire even a fairy in the long run.

But it ain't the inside of the Pallis as is all that's to be seen, for jest look at the gardings, partikler when the roses is out.

Not but wot there's drawbacks there, for I'm sure I never shouldn't 'ave 'ad that row with Mrs. Purbrick, but for a-settin' a-talkin' with Mrs. Padwick on that terris, never a-dreamin' as that deceitful creetur' were a-settin' a listenin' jest round the corner a-doin' of 'er crochy work, as is a-livin' at Norwood with three Injin children to look arter, as ain't the prodigy of no negro blacks, as they calls 'em; but them poor things, as is born out there, tho' Inglish parents, as never thrives arter infancy, if so far, and then must be sent 'ome to be rared, as is why I always says I'd rather see a dorter of mine at the washtub in Ingland than a-rollin' about on helefants over there, as no doubt enjoys them kitmigars and owdars as they calls their meals, as leads to constant tiffins, as I don't 'old with myself, as can't a-bear them quarrels.

'Cos I'd knowed Mrs. Purbrick well afore ever she set foot in Injier, thro' goin' out a stewardess, and when fust she come 'ome did used to see 'er constant, as lodged close agin' Stepney railway, when she come 'ome with one child, as were a poor 'aporth of cheese, as the sayin' is, and neglected shameful

in the measles, as I don't think the parints cared a straw about it, whether it lived or died, as I'm sure the mother were a 'ussy, from wot Mrs. Purbrick told me about 'er with her own lips; and then when the child were dead recommended Mrs. Purbrick that strong that she got a 'ole lot more sent over to 'er, as now does the swell, and a season-ticket for the Cristshul Pallis, babbies and all.

I were only a-sayin' to Mrs. Padwick as I wouldn't trust a child of mine to no one as would let it set in a thurrer draft a-sickenin' for measles, and as it were my opinion as them parints over in Injier didn't break their 'arts when the child was took, thro' inflammation in the lungs, as were gross neglect.

I 'adn't 'ardly got the words out when a figger come afore me with eyes a-glarin' like red 'ot coals as said, "I'll punish you, and that other old sack-of fat shall be my witness," as were gross langwidge for Mrs. Padwick, as tho' she 'ave filled out, ain't to be called them wulgar names.

I didn't say nothink, but give sich a start, as shoved my chair back wiolent agin' a party as were a-settin' in one of them roll chairs, a-enjoyin' of the prospect, as started that chair back'ards, and would 'ave been rollin' down them steps, but for one of the men, as put a spoke in them wheels, as

the sayin' is, as stopped it suddin, and so shook the poor lady as were in it, as 'er screams was that frightful as brought a reg'lar crowd round us; and one party said as I did ought to be ashamed of myself, a-playin' sich larks.

But, law, that Mrs. Purbrick, she is a reg'lar spitfire for revenge; for if she didn't say out loud, "This old person is that given to drink as sho can't be trusted out without a keeper, as did ought to keep a better look out, if she's trusted with this old tipsy manyac," as is the new word for bein' mad drunk.

I didn't say nothink, tho' I could 'ave sobbed my 'art up, but went to the lady's cloak-room, and 'ad a good cry on the quiet; 'cos I couldn't a-bear to 'ave sich a amputation a-'angin' over my 'ead, partikler as I were rather blowed about, and wanted to set myself to rights, as I did with a good wash; and when I come out agin', as Mrs. Padwick said, I looked like a full-blowed rose.

But I am glad as I did go in, or else I shouldn't never 'ave looked in at them peep-shows, as is all about Pompey as were berried in the hashes, as I see myself that time as I went along with Cook's Escurshins over in Italy, and never did see sich a deadly-lively place as is all ruins, but them peep-shows gives you all them places afore they was ruins as well as arter, as is werry lovely; but not

'ouses as I should ever 'ave cared to live in myself, with no roofs to 'em, and no side winders, and bedrooms as ain't 'ardly fit for pigsties, and little bits of seats as wouldn't 'ardly 'old a child to sit on comfortable; and as to the beds, I don't believe as any one ever could sleep in 'em, for if a infant was to try and turn in 'em out they must roll to a dead certinty, as would be werry 'ard lines on them tiles as the rooms is paved with.

But, law bless me! wot a sight it must 'ave been when that mounting took and went off like that, as is wuss than livin' near a gasometer, as is why I never could abear to live near Blackfriars Bridge; for, as I says, you might be blowed out of your bed into the river, or sky 'igh to the top of St. Paul's, afore you was out of bed in the mornin'

As I'm sure them poor Pompeys was done to, and then to think of bein' left berried in your own dust-'eap all them 'undreds of years, as shows wot them Roman dustmen must 'ave been to neglect you, jest like ours, as is bad enuf, goodness knows; for there was Miss Bowles, as were in the stay-makin' line, a-settin' at work at 'er open winder with a dust-'ole under 'er nose as would 'ave bred a fever, only the naybours 'rote to the parish, as threatened to 'ave 'er took up under the Noosance Removal Hact; and all because she would throw lobster shells into the dust 'ole, as the dustman

'adn't contracted for, as brought bluebottle flies by the million.

And I do 'ope as they're partikler over them pints at the Cristshul Pallis, or else some day they'll be eat up with cockroaches, and swarm with rats, as will travel for miles arter garbage, as is wot they glories in nat'rally, thro' bein' their prey, as the sayin' is.

But wot always gives me a turn is a-seein' of a balloon a-goin' up, for fear as the wind should take and drive it over the Cristshul Pallis, and then them as is in it should throw out their ballast or anythink unawares as would come down on you like a load of bricks, as the sayin' is, tho' only a trifle up there, the same as the party as 'ad the crown of 'is 'at 'nocked in thro' a bit of oringe peel as fell off the top of the Monyment, and cut 'im like a knife thro' the crown, as it's well he weren't a wipin of 'is bald 'ead with 'is 'at off; as would 'ave split his skull like a battle axe, in the Tower of London, as must 'ave come down a cropper on them men in harmour.

But, law, if anyone were to fall out of a balloon onto the top of the Cristshul Pallis, why they'd bring it all down; as them ruins of Pompey would be a fool to the smash as they're 'd be, partickler a Flower Show.

But there is parties as always wants to be there

in a thunderstorm, thro' glass bein' a non-conductor, as the sayin' is; but that's all rubbish, 'cos in course the thunderbolt might fall on it, thro' not a-knowin' as there was glass underneath, and then 'ow about non-conductors bein' any good? as would be wuss than standin' up under a tree, as 'ave been the death of a-many afore now.

Not as you'd think as thunderbolts would go a-runnin' down trees, but then natur' is that wonderful, you can't tell wot course it will take.

Wot I likes specially about the Cristshul Pallis is as you can do jest wot you like, be as quiet as a mouse, as the sayin' is, or else have lots of company.

For I'm sure it's many's the quiet doze as I've 'ad a-settin' in one of them sercluded parts, as is downright lonesome.

And then the way as you can improve your mind a-lookin' at them graven images as stands all in a row, is a many on 'em 'eathen gods, and that's why in course they don't wear no clothes, 'cos in course they lived afore clothes was inwented, as is somethink like eatin' and drinkin', a deal of trouble.

But, law bless me! wot ever would life be like without both on 'em?

Fancy a-settin' all day with nothink to wear and no reg'lar meals a comin' round; wouldn't the time 'ang 'eavy on your 'ands, as the sayin' is.

And it's all werry fine for them 'eathen creeturs not to cover their limbs, but it ain't every one as could show 'em, or would care to 'ave parties a-starin' at you if you was a little on one side, or might 'ave your shoulder growed out, as in course is a blemish, as paddin' will do wonders, for the same as a cork leg, as will defy detection, but not without a boot or stockin' or some sort of a kiverin', for I once see a lady at a show in a fair as 'adn't no legs at all, as wasn't aperient as long as she were a-settin', but in course without no drapery, as tho sayin' is, 'ow would 'er no legs have been kep' out of sight.

But I must say as that Cristshul Pallis were werry nigh the end of me, as was all thro' them fireworks as is too lovely, and puts you in mind of the internal regions, as they do say the bowels of the hearth is all fire and smoke, as is wot is throwed out in the wulcaners as they calls Vesuvians arter the lucifers, as all comes from the same place, as is wot were the end of that there Pompey.

For wot with lookin' at them peep-shows, as showed them all a burnin' and a 'earin' Miss Pilkinton a-goin' on about the end of the world, as she said as 'er minister knowed to a minit when it would 'appen, I was all of a twitter. Tho' I did say, "Well, I thinks then he might as well give a friend the straight tip, as the sayin' is, 'cos in course there's a

good many things as parties would like to 'ave done, and some as they wouldn't; 'cos I'm sure if I knowed, I wouldn't 'ave our front gardin gravelled."

Not as I do believe as he do know, 'cos I thinks any minister as dares to say as he knows the day, or even the year, as the world is to end, is a good for nothink lyin' 'umbug; 'cos, in course, it's werry easy to say as you espects a thing, and then when it don't 'appen, get out on it some'ow.

As to Miss Pilkinton, she's a red-nose idjot, and as to 'er mishunary, as is arter 'er, he's a taller-faced sponge, and a sneak into the bargin', as I told 'im to 'is face, as I've see the man eat five 'arty meat meals in one day, as I calls a downright 'oggish way of feedin'

It certingly were a lovely day as we all went to the Cristshul Pallis for to see them fireworks in the evening, because me and Miss Pilkinton went early in the arternoon, and took tea near the transcript, as is a nice view.

That there Mr. Westpeg, as lodged with Mrs. Padwick and were serous, he were a-comin', but sent word as he'd got a sick 'eadache, and no wonder, the way as that man eat black puddins and pig's fry for 'is supper at Mrs. Bulpit's the night afore, thro' a basket from the country, as is a relation of Miss Pilkinton, and 'ad a fresh killed pig in it, besides butter and eggs, as I wouldn't

touch for the world; for, as I thinks to myself, no pig in this world wasn't never killed in July but to save 'im from dyin', so none of your pork for me; and I warned Miss Pilkinton agin 'im, as weren't a-goin' to touch it, she said, thro' 'avin once 'ad brain fever thro' over-eatin' of 'crself with suckin'-pig, as she denicd, a-sayin' as wot it were as disagreed with 'er were thro' eatin' of a bit of his marrer unawares, as always flies to the 'ead, and would drive you mad, as is all rubbish in my opinion.

I was glad as that Westpeg did not come, for we'd 'ad enuf of 'im and the hend of the world the Sunday afore, as I 'adn't got over by Thursday; and didn't stop to supper at Mrs. Bulpit's, 'cos I well knowed as 'im and the pig together would be too much in one room.

So soon arter we got to the Cristshul Pallis we set and 'ad tea, a-talkin' quite friendly, for it were afore 'er and me 'ad 'ad any of them little tiffins as ended in a row at last, and she were a-sayin' 'ow she longed to be along with 'er Samuel a-convertin' of the 'eathen.

As I says, "No doubt," a-thinkin' as 'er Samuel were a likely bird to conwert anything escept wot was eatables, tho' in course I didn't make no remarks, but said, when we'd done tea, as we'd take a turn and look at the company, as was werry fine, jest like the evenin'.

Arter a bit we met Mrs. Padwick and Mrs. Bulpit, and Mr. Westpeg, as 'ad shook 'is 'ead off; and it's my opinion as he were a-tryin' of it on with Mrs. Padwick, for he were a-pumpin' me about the property as she's got; but he'll find as she's too old a bird for to be cort with 'is chaff.

Well, he were that perlite, a-wantin' us to 'ave all manner, as the only thing as we could take arter tea were a little cold pale, as I were obligated to give the waiter the tip for to put me in two goes, for I never could drink rubbish, as I considers is a underminin' of your constitution.

Well, we was all that pleasant as the time seemed for to fly; and as it were a gettin' dusk, thought as we'd go and get our places up above, for to see the fireworks, and werry lovely the night were; but never in my born days did I feel more tired, for my legs was pounds of lead under me, and my feet a-throbbin' with a whirly feelin' in my 'ead, and glad I were to find as I'd got a corner seat up in that gallery for to see the fireworks, as would support the back.

Not as fireworks is things as I cares for, thro' havin' see Woxall when a gal, as were lit up with 'und'eds of thousands of lamps, with a party in the name of Simpson, as were a-walkin' about bowin' all over the place, with fireworks over your 'ead, and Madam Sarkey, as rolled a gold cats'-meat

barrer all up a rope, and broke 'er neck in the end, as were a 'appy release, poor thing, I should say, 'cos, in course, life must 'ave been a burden to any one as 'ad to get their livin' like that.

Oh! it were werry lovely to see Woxall by daylight, as I 'ave done scores of times, for a aunt of mine, as were sister-in-law to my mother's fust cousin, she 'ad a sister as was cook there, and we did often go to see 'er of a Sunday evenin', as were a pleasant walk from Battersea Rise; and I've see the chickens a-roastin' by the score, as they do say were the smallest as were ever seen dead or alive, with 'am cut that thin, as they do say one 'am would feed thousands.

So I don't care not so much about fireworks, tho' always afraid of a rocket-stick, a well rememberin' a 'earin' talk of the poor gentleman as were a-lookin' up to see one come down with 'is mouth opin, as shot down 'is throat, and never spoke agin', tho' they carried 'im on a ladder to St. George's 'Ospital with the rocket a-goin on fizzin' inside 'im.

Well, I set a thinkin' over all manner, and it were a gettin' quite dark; and I see the lights a movin' about, as always shows as fireworks is a-goin' off, when I 'eard a loud report, and a woice says, "They're landed."

I says, "Who's landed?"

"Why," says a party as I didn't know, "it's the Prooshins as is come to bombard Winsor Castle, 'cos Queen Wictorier won't let 'em in to see the State apartments, as isn't open to the public 'cos she's at 'ome."

"Quite right too," says I, "why should she be disturbed in 'er own 'ouse, as in course is 'er castle, like every Englishman's did ought to be."

I says, "That's a nasty one for the Prooshins as they let off then."

"Yes," says a woice as I knowed were Miss Pilkinton, "and I'm sure we shall be struck, and I do wish as Queen Wictorier would let me stand in front of 'er for to shelter 'er."

I says, "Bless 'er royal 'art, she ain't one of that sort, and it wouldn't be no use you a-standin' before 'er; but I'm sure I'll do so with pleasure, and no Prooshin shan't never lay a finger on 'er while I stands by."

I says, "This is frightful! 'Ow they are a-firin'! And I do think," I says to Queen Wictorier, as were a-standin' on a bench beside me, "as it's fool-'ardy in your grashus majisty to stand up there, as that old Beastmark could see thro' a night-glass, and would take a haim at you with pleasure."

"Yes," she says, "he would with all 'is might and main, only there's my dorter's 'usban' as is standin' close behind 'im;" and she says, "I'd 'ave

ordered sich a wolley to be fired back, only for my grandchildren, as is a-standin' jest in front of Beastmark, as is 'is artful ways, a-puttin' 'em there, 'cos he knows as I dursn't fire that way."

I says, "He's a nasty bullyin' old blackguard."

I 'eard a woice cry out, "Come down, Mrs. Brown."

I says, "Never. You let me alone," for I see it were Beastmark, as was a-ketchin' 'old of me by the arm.

I says, "I knows your game, you wants to get at Queen Wictorier; but you never shall, escept over my body," for I'd been and throwed myself afore 'er.

"Come out," he says, "afore the grand crash."

I says, "Never. I'll stand by my Queen and country for ever."

And jest then there come sich a bust of fire and fury, as made me ketch 'old of Beastmark, and say as I'd tear 'is eyes out, if he dared to lay a finger on our Queen, when a tremenjous glare reg'lar woke me up, as was the last grand esplosion of the fire-works, and the party as I'd collared were Mr. Westpeg, as were a-tryin' to get me out afore the rush of the crowd.

But it was only 'is fidgettin' ways, for tho' a crowd, it were that orderly, as there wasn't nothink

to fear, and I'd been a-dreamin' about Beastmark, as no doubt knows 'is way about better than to come a-interferin' with us, as ain't Beljum, and would soon give him chi, hi, as the sayin' is; 'cos we ain't weak like that poor dear old Pope, nor yet obliged to knock under like them French, as certingly did make fools of theirselves, but may pay 'im back agin' some day in 'is own coin, as the sayin' is, but didn't ought to be in no 'urry over it, nor yet show their teeth when they can't bite, as the sayin' is.

There certingly was a dreadful row all round me when I woke up; for Mrs. Padwick said as I'd took and jumped up on the seat, jest as that grand last esplosion were a-goin' off, a-waivin' of my umbreller, 'ollered out, "Ooray for Old Ingland, and down with them Prooshins," and took and 'it out right and left all round, and sent parties a-flyin' right and left.

I certingly were dreadful escited over it; for when I got 'ome, and did get to bed, I might as well 'ave been at the Cristshul Pallis, for fireworks was a-goin' on in my 'ead all night, and Brown says I kep' a-snorin' and a-jumpin' up, and askin' if it were the hend of the world, or only jest three, as I'd 'eard struck.

So I don't think as I did ought for to escite

myself over them things, as is too much for me.

But, law bless me, when you come to think on it serous, we didn't never ought to let them Prooshins come into France no more; 'cos if once they got there, with them long shootin' guns of their'n, they might take and fire at the Cristshul Pallis; and if they didn't kill anyone, they'd damidge the premises frightful, let alone a-stoppin' the music, and frightenin' the ladies.

That's why I don't 'old with that there Capting Boyton, as might go and teach them Prooshins 'ow to come a-paddlin' over 'ere, and tho' in course they'd 'ave their trouble for their pains, as the sayin' is, 'cos they'd soon be sent back, yet we shouldn't like to be obligated to 'unt 'em to death like water rats, as tho' it would be fine fun for our boys, yet, as Brown says, it wouldn't be no joke for them Prooshins, poor devils, 'cos Brown thinks as they did ought jest to 'ang up Beastmark, and then they'd be all right, 'cos it's 'im as is the cause of all the row.

"But," as I says, "it's a mussy to live in a 'ighland, tho' in course we're a little over-crowded, but any 'ow we ain't a-goin' to be bullied by a feller as 'ave got a better gun than us; 'cos it's all werry fine to talk about fightin', but it's 'im as strikes the fust

blow as'll get the day, and not the bravest as ever stood up like a man for 'is Queen and country; and tho' in course we all wants peace, as is why that Cristshul Pallis were fust built in 'Igh Park, yet we can't stand no forriner's impidence."

And as to peace, that's too good to last, as made Queen Wictorier shed tears, and go down on 'er knees to the Dook of Wellinton, not to 'ave it took out of the Park, yet, in course, 'ad to give in thro' Lewy Napoleon a-wantin' to 'ave it down, so as he might 'ave a row, so as to make 'isself a umpire, as he begun with a "Coo dy tar," as the French calls it, and ended with Beastmark's boot a-kickin' of 'im out of the place.

"But," as I says, "as long as Old Ingland lasts, this ere Cristshul Pallis will stand, thro' bein' made of ion and glass, as can be kep' in repair for ever, and when it is wore out, jest think of the money it will fetch for old ion."

I always thinks as it's a mussy as the wind don't never carry them rocket sticks so as to make 'em fall on that there Cristshul Pallis glass roof, the same as they did into old Mr. Pilcher's cucumber frame, as lived close agin them Surry Gardings, and didn't leave a 'ole pane in it, as made it a reg'lar wreck and ruin, as the sayin' is, as is why he give up growin' of 'is own cucumbers, not as they was

ever more than gurkins for size, for all 'is pains thro' a-stoopin' over them as brought on lumbago, so as it took three on 'em to straiten 'em out on the ionin'-board afore they could put 'im to bed, as made old Jinkins, as will always be 'avin' of 'is joke, a-jeerin' over the wall, and callin' out to Mrs. Pilchers to put 'im thro' the mangle, as were a brutal remark, thro' a-knowin' as they'd see better days, and only took to a mangle thro' their eldest son a-losin' of 'is leg in firin' of a royal salute, when that Porshar of Egyp come over to see Queen Wictorier, as were not at 'ome to 'im, and all as he got were a royal salute off Portsmouth, a blowin' up for comin', thro' that little Jonny Russell, as ansered the door to 'im, and were always employed over some dirty job.

But poor young Pilchers, he lost 'is leg, as were blowed off thro' a-rammin' down the cannon with it, as esploded thro' its own 'eat, and so got a penshun, and could turn a mangle with 'is crutch, thro' never bein' able to bear a wooden leg; but as merry as a grig, with 'is wife one of them trumps of women as will work like a nigger, and showed 'er 'ow to clear starch myself, as my dear mother learnt me, a-sayin', "Martha, you'll never know too much in this world, not in the way of 'onest work," and true 'er words proved, for I'm sure

many's the pound I've made a-gettin' up fine linen, as 'ave kept the wolf from the door, as the sayin' is.

For I 'ave worked 'ard in my time, and am thankful as I can go about enjoyin' myself at my time of life, as am a-gettin' on. But it's my opinion as them as works best plays best, 'cos I'm sure them as is idle never enjoys a outin' like me, for I never ain't one to set with my 'ands before me at 'ome, and when I comes out I comes out to enjoy myself; and there ain't no place like the Cristshul Pallis for that, 'cos if it's wet, why there you are as snug as a bug in a rug, as the sayin' is; and if the sun's out you can get plenty of shade, and nice seats to set on; and as to refreshments, you can get anythink as your pocket will run to, from a 'asty snack to wot the 'Merrykins call a tall feed, as is things I don't care about myself, thro' a considerin' as a cut out of the jinte, with your beer, and wegetables, is a dinner for a king, as prefers my malt with my bit of cheese, to any wine as you can give me, and not one for puddin' nor yet dessert, tho' I do like jest a drop of somethink 'ot, partikler arter pork or sallid, as is wot I calls enjoyin' of the good things of this life, as makes me feel thankful; but none of your kill-joy cold water for me, as is all werry well for them as

'ave 'ad to break theirselves of takin' of a drop too much, as is in gen'ral the way with them tee-totalers; not but wot parties is right to cut it all off when they finds as they can't take a drop without a fallin' into a but, jest the same as some if you gives 'em a inch they'll take a ell, as the sayin' is, not as I 'olds with sich langwidge myself, partikler afore ladies.

And I must say as I never did see no one the wuss for licker in the Cristshul Pallis, tho' I've knowed 'em a little bit on in the grounds, as is preaps thro' the air a-bein' too strong for 'em, the same as Brighton, for I shan't never forget them Wylams a-goin' down for the day, leastways eight 'ours by the sea side, as started before seven in the mornin' one day, and never got 'ome till past two the next mornin', as was every one on 'em a little bit on, with the old 'uns reg'lar speechless at fust, and the father he took to cryin'

When he got round a little, while the old lady, she used langwidge as would 'ave made a pot-boy blush, and their minister as 'ad gone with 'em, he set a-smilin' on the doorstep, a-sayin' as he'd a message of peace as he couldn't get out, thro' the sea air bein' that strong as he were reg'lar tung tied.

So it don't suit every one to a-rushin' down to

the sea side, and slap into the sea, like young Edley, as took a 'eader as nearly broke 'is neck, and were laid up for days through the shingles as come nearly all round his waist, as is certing death if they meets, leastways that's wot 'is grandmother, old Mrs. Tabley, said, and were quite short with me 'cos I give a smile incredilous like.

But that's the beauty of the Cristshul Pallis, you can 'ave fresh air in the gardins, sea air from the acquaryium, and no shingles to cut your feet, nor yet goin' out in a boat to give you the quarms, and not arf the time wasted on the road, and don't cost you three-and-sixpence there and back, and can stop more than eight 'ours there if you please, with pleasant company into the bargin.

So give me the Cristshul Pallis before the oshin wave, 'cos tho' some is that parshul to a life on it, as the song says, yet for my part dry ground is quite good enuf for me, partikler with a good roof over my 'ead and cheerful faces round me, a-knowin' wot money I'm a-goin' to spend, with euuf in my pocket to get 'ome safe, and not afraid as it wou't run to a cab if a wet night, tho' glad to get back to my owu place; for thro' Cristshuls and Pallises, tho' you may roam, if it's never so 'umble, there's no place like 'ome, as the sayin' is.

I 'ave 'eard parties say as bein' under glass for

ever and ever ain't good for the 'ealth, but that's all nonsense, 'cos look at a green'ouse; and as to the Cristshul Pallis, them young ladies as is there a sellin' them lovely things, looks the picter of 'ealth, and a good many on 'em was that fine growed figgers as Mrs. Pulbrook told me as she 'ad a niece there as growed out of knowledge in no time, as in course were only to be espected, 'cos she were jest like a 'ot'ouse plant or a early cucumber, as grows a perdigious size under glass, as I knows myself, thro' a forcin' some orange pips under a wine-glass in our back-parlour winder, as the sun sets full on, and come up in a wonderful short time, and would 'ave been oranges no doubt but for them dratted cats as knocked the pot down and smashed it one night, as I left it out by axcidence.

But wot a thing it would be to 'ave a 'otel, or a boardin'-'ouse jinin' on to that Cristshul Pallis, so as parties as is delikit in their chests could live there all the winter, and never get no bronkitis nor nothink, as is jest the same as goin' abroad.

Not as I can make out wot it were as killed people afore bronkitis were inwented, as come in along with influenzer, as nobody never 'ad when I were a gal, tho' there was wiolent colds about and a many old people as did used to die of water on

their chests, as I never 'ears on now, as were the end of old King William, tho' he died in summer, as couldn't 'ave been cold as killed 'im.

The same as King George the 4th, as I stood on Battersea Bridge with my dear mother for to 'ear the big bell of St. Paul's a-tollin' at night.

But both them kings, as was brothers, died at Winsor, and certingly King William he 'ad a good wife for to nuss 'im, as were a true woman, tho' some parties did throw 'er bein' ugly in 'er face, as tho' she'd made 'erself, as in course none of us didn't; but it's a deal better to be ugly and be a good wife, than be one of them beauties as nobody don't respect, and preaps it's their beauty as 'ave been their downfall, for wot good did all 'is beauties do King George, as 'ad a wile lot round 'is death-bed a-plunderin' of 'im of everythink, and sendin' of waggin'-loads of things out of Winsor Castle night and day, when he were at the last grasp, and 'ad to go out through the back door as soon as the breath were out of his body, and left 'im like a dog as nobody cares for, 'cos they was afraid as they'd be cort a pilferin', as was 'olesale robbery I 'ave 'eard say, as was all 'is own fault, 'cos wot right 'ad he with sich waggerbones about 'im, as was called 'is beauties.

The same as King Charles in 'Ampton Court, as a-many on 'em I considers was downright undecent, and arter all said and done, wotever is beauty but skin deep, as you can see by lookin' at 'airdressers' shops or wax-works.

As I never shan't forget a party as lived in Upper Baker Street, many years ago, as were a reg'lar beauty, and made that fuss over, bless you, and would go out in 'er carridge every day, with crowds a-standin' to stare, all dressed that lovely, and yet with a breakin' 'art under it, for she'd been and run away from a good 'usban', and then were deserted by the willin' as 'ad made 'er leave 'er 'ome. She took to drinkin' with a delikit constitution, as didn't kill 'er, but would 'ave done soon, but for a wax lucifer as fell on 'er dressin' gownd, as she were a-sealin' a letter in, and a mask of flames in a instant, as a aunt of mine lived lady's-maid with, and tried to put 'er out with the 'arth-rug, but burnt thro' 'er stays, and 'ad 'er senses to the last, and lived long enuf to 'ear 'er 'usban' come to 'er bedside and say as he forgive 'er, as were a good man, and was a-kneelin' by 'er side a-oldin' of 'er 'and when she died; and let's 'ope as she's forgiven, for I'm sure I've 'eard my aunt say as she were the kindest 'art as ever did breathe the breath of life, not as that is any excuse

for boltin' away, but yet it's a comfort to 'ave somethink to 'ope for when parties is took like that with 'ardly no time to cry for mercy, but yet may be their punishments, 'cos we none of us didn't ought to dare to live them wicked lives as may bring a judgment on us.

But, law, some parties calls that Cristshul Pallis the Pallis of industry, and so they may, when you comes to think of it, for it's downright wonderful to think wot industry will do, 'cos look at all that wax-works as is nothink but bees, tho' they certingly are unaccountables, them creeturs, as knows their own masters, and 'ates strangers, and will fret arter anyone as is dead, and go away from the place where there's been a death, tho' I 'ave 'eard say as they'll stop if told about the death proper, and put on decent mornin', as is thro' the gard'ner a-whisperin' to them the sad news with a bit of black tied over their 'ives.

And I do like 'em for a-'onerin' of their queen, jest the same as Queen Wictorier, as won't turn their backs on 'er, nor yet let anyone moslest 'er; but must be a dull life, never leavin' of the 'ive, nor a-goin' from flower to flower a-gatherin' 'oney all the day, as the sayin' is.

And as to light, there ain't no light in this world as can 'old a candle to wax in my opinion, as it

don't màtter wot it is, seems to suit everythink, and lights up a ball-room lovely and shows off the ladies and their dresses, and then I'm sure I never see anythink so solemn as the light they give over a-layin' in State in a church, as I once see, as were awful grand yet soothin'-like to your feelin's, and then that useful to wax your thread, and then there's cobbler's wax, as there couldn't be no shoes without; so, after all, if it wasn't for industry, where should we all be?

As we all knows as idleness is the parint of every wice, not but thieves is industrous enuf, as is brought up to it like, and gets that clever at it as you can't feel their 'ands in your pocket, as 'ave in general a light finger.

Not but wot I respects a thief as runs 'is chance in stealin' of bein' quodded, as the sayin' is, but look at them thieves as robs parties of their money in ile wells, like poor Mrs. Bleacher, as was persuaded by 'er trustee to go and sink all 'er three thousan' pouns in rock ile, as he said come a-pumpin' up out of the rocks of its own accord, and could be sold for thousans every day.

I went over to see 'er the werry afternoon as 'er trustee 'ad been there, and she were to give 'im a answer by post that night, if he didn't call agin, as I were sure he would, and she'd 'ave put every

penny in but for me, as said to 'er, "My good soul, why ever put all your eggs in one basket," as the sayin' is.

"If it's sich a fine thing as will bring you in hundreds a year for your three thousan', put in a thousan', and keep the other two where it is, as will bring you in a 'underd a-year, as you can't never starve on, and if you gets a lot out of your ile, why spend that in a spree."

She says, "You're right, old friend, but," she says, "Mr. Slyboy is preaps a-comin' back for my answer, and don't you leave the room while he's 'ere, for he's got sich a way a-talkin' of you over like."

So when Slyboy come, as were between the lights, as the sayin' is, he didn't want to talk afore me. But Mrs. Bleacher, she told 'im as I knowed all about it, and wanted to know more, thro' 'avin' of a little in the stocks, as I might take out.

"Oh!" he says, "it makes me quite mad to see the way as parties is robbed a-sinkin' of their money in them stocks, as don't bring 'em in bread and cheese 'ardly, when they might ride in their carridges thro' rock ile."

"Ah!" I says, "but then ile is slippery stuff, and there ain't no risk in the Bank, 'cos when

that's bust, we shall all be in the same mess."

"Ah!" he says, "but that can't last for ever."

He tried werry 'ard to get me to let 'im put down my name for some shares.

So I says, "Why, I'm a married woman, so can't act without my 'usban' "

He said he'd call in and see Brown over it.

I says, "Do so, and if he says yes, you shall 'ave my little all, as the sayin' is, and Mrs. Bleacher's too."

"Oh!" he says, "Mrs. Bleacher's too sharp to let sich a chance go by, as ain't no green 'orn."

I see as he were a-tryin' to flatter that poor old woman, who's a born fool over money, and would swaller anythink.

So I says, "Yes, she'll make a pretty thing out of 'er thousan' pouns."

He says, "Three thousan' is wot she's a-goin' to inwest, as will bring 'er in pretty nigh a thousan' a-year."

"Ah!" I says, "indeed. But," I says, "I think she'd better begin with a thousan' "

He says, "She would be foolish to miss sich a chance."

She's a little 'ard o' 'earin', so he 'ollers to

her, "It's three thousan', ain't it, as I'm to inwest?"

She says, "Only one to begin with," and pints to me.

'Ow that man did try to get me to adwise 'er to put in all the three thousan'

Fust he begun a-sayin' as he couldn't understand 'ow sich a clever clear-'eaded woman like me, could be a-standin' in my friend's light; and then he begun a-talkin' about ladies not a-understandin' busyness, and at last he got that short as to be quite wite over it, a-sayin' as it were my jelosy as didn't want to see my friend that well off as might ride in 'er carridge, and look down on me.

So I says, "My good man, if you was to talk to the end of the world, you wouldn't get me to give way, unless my lawful 'usban' were to say to me 'Martha, it's all right,' and then I'd do it like a bird, as the sayin' is; so you come, and talk to 'im."

So I stuck to my pint, and wouldn't go out of the room till that feller went away, and Mrs. Bleacher she'd give me 'er solem promiss as she wouldn't let 'im 'ave a penny more.

It's well as I nailed my colours to the mask, as the sayin' is, over that money, for poor old soul, she

lost every fardin' of 'er thousan' pouns within three months; and if it 'adn't been for Brown a-takin' 'er to 'is own lawyer, she'd 'ave been cleaned out of every rap, as the sayin' is.

That feller were tried for the swindle, but got off, 'cos, as Brown said, a-speakin' out afore 'em all, as there was sich a lot of rogues of the same kidney, as the sayin' is, that in course they was all in the swim.

I don't think as Mrs. Bleacher ever thanked me. 'Cos she'd got it into 'er 'ead, as that ile only failed thro' want of money, as is wot that Slyboy 'ad rote 'er, 'cos he never come near 'er agin, but went over to 'Merryker, as is where he'll find lots of pals all up to the same rigs.

But, it's all thro' parties bein' that greedy over money, as makes 'em lose it all; 'cos, as the sayin' is, their eyes is larger than their bellies; 'cos wot ever did Mrs. Bleacher want with 'er thousans, as can't spend 'er 'underds; for no old woman don't want more than a pound a week to live on, with no rent to pay, as don't eat arf quartern, not in four days.

But, law, that's the world all over, as is only nat'ral arter all. 'Cos I'm sure, when you sees all them nice things all set out at the Cristshul Pallis, you thinks as you could eat a deal more than wot

you can, for, arter all, man wants but little 'ere below, as the sayin' is; and there's a-many as eats and drinks a great deal more than wot they wants, thro' a-bein' green-eyed, greedy insides, as the sayin' is.

I don't know 'ow many that there Cristshul Pallis will 'old, but I should say 'underds of thousans, not as I should care to make one, 'cos I can't a-bear a crowd, no more than Queen Wictorier, as I've 'eard say can't a-bear to be stared at, 'cos tho' of course a cat may look at a king, as the sayin' is, yet a queen's werry different, thro' bein' the opposite sect, as nobody wouldn't stare out of countynance, as ain't manners.

It's a pity as them egsotick parts at the Pallis was burnt, 'cos wot a jewlogical gardins there might 'ave been there, with all them wild beasts a-walkin' about alive in glass cases, as would 'ave been quite at 'ome with all them native plants a-growin', and monkeys and parrits up the trees, jest like the West Inges, as could 'ave growed the sugar cane, and pine apples too, with oranges and lemons as common as pears and apples; not but wot that would 'ave been bad for them forriners as gets a livin' by sellin' us them fruits.

The same as poor Mrs. Brewsters did used to

turn a 'onest penny thro' a sellin' new-laid eggs, tho' she do turn a mangle in a front kitchen, as them fowls roosts on of a night, and 'er bed too, and only the dust-'ole for a dung-'ill to scratch about in, as they do say as fowls thrives on ashes, as may be all werry well for layin' eggs on, but for bilin' or roastin', give me a barn door before all the dust-'oles in this world.

I do wish as Brown would go out a little more; but, bless your 'art, if he was to go to the Cristshul Pallis, he'd get among them machinery departments, and never rest till he'd got it all up for to carry away in his 'ead; and I'm sure the things as he sets and inwents, why they'd puzzle the Lord Mare to make 'em out.

Not as ever he talks to me about 'em, as don't know the meanin' of silinders nor yet highdrawlics —as is dangerous things for to tamper with, 'cos I'm sure it's quite enuf for me to see the power of steam out of our kittle, and don't want to feel it, as scalded poor Mrs. Arber, as turned the 'rong tap over a patent biler, thro' gettin' of her 'ead confused, as was thro' bottlin' of gooseberries for Mrs. Padwick, as she said the fixed hair on got into 'er chest; but when I found out as all the beer, as was nine gallons in a cupboard under the stairs, 'ad been mopped up, why I see as she

were in the 'abit of turnin' the 'rong tap pretty often.

But, law, them cooks is often drove to licker thro' the constant fire as they're under; but, as I says, why not take tea, and if it must be a glass of beer, then let it be swipes, as the sayin' is, as 'll squench your thirst a deal better than the strongest beer as ever was brewed.

But, bless my 'art, it makes one quite puspire to think of the cook at the Cristshul Pallis, as must be done by steam, I should say, 'cos no 'uman bein' couldn't stand in front of a fire as would be big enuf to roast all that meat. Talk of a fire to roast a ox, why they must 'ave a fire big enuf to roast a drove of bullocks, a flock of sheep, with pigs and poultry throwed in all at once; and then the bilin', to say nothink of wegetables and pastry, nor yet the bread, as, in course, they bakes at 'ome, and washes too, no doubt.

We don't none of us think when we're out a pleasurin' of them as is a-slavin' their 'arts out so as we may enjoy ourselves.

As is wot I often says about cabmen as drives parties to a jolly good dinner, and 'ome agin, and then 'ave a row over a extra sixpence; partikler a wet night, or that cold as it's enuf to freeze them alive a-settin' on the box, and I 'oners them as 'ave

brought in them cabmen's shelters, not but wot some is that obstinate as they'd rather set inside of them cabs of a night, as is werry unpleasant for them as gets in jest arter, as I've done myself many a time and oft, as the sayin' is, a-goin' out of a night when I did used to nuss.

But, law, it's no use a-talkin' about makin' other parties 'appy your way, 'cos they won't 'ave it no more than a dog will let you make 'is bed for 'im, as will take and scratch it all up agin, jest as you've made it that smooth and nice for 'im.

But wot I don't 'old with is them good people, as no doubt means well, as will always mix up their tracks and their bibles with heverything as they does for the poor, as is takin' a liberty with your conshence I considers, and so I told a party as 'ad a work-room for poor womin, and would set and read religion to 'em, as in course them as was 'umbugs pertended to like, and so gammoned that party orful.

Jest like a lady in the train a-goin' to the Cristshul Pallis, as were a-goin' about a-kidnappin' children, as I told 'er plump and plain, 'cos it wasn't nothink else, for she said as she were a-takin' 'em out of the street, and sendin' 'em away, 'cos she said as their parents was a Godless set.

I says to 'er, "Pray wot's that to you? Look

arter your own children, as they ain't Godless, as is as much as you can do."

She give a scream, a-sayin' as I were insultin' 'er thro' bein' a single party.

"Ah!" I says, "I thought as much, 'cos old maids' children and bachelors' wives is always best managed."

She said as I were a coarse person, and she didn't wish to talk to me.

I says, "Who begun it, me or you? for," I says, "I ain't that fond of winegar-wisaged strangers as to talk to 'em in a train."

She says, "I felt a concern for your soul."

I says, "My soul ain't no concern of yourn, so look arter your own. Who wants you to come a-puttin' your oar in and your tracts, when parties is out for a pleasant day?"

I do believe as that old woman would 'ave got a-preachin' to us the same as one teetotal party did, but we dried 'im up pretty quick, 'cos Mrs. Jobbins she 'appened to know 'im, and asked 'im straight out about 'is shop as he kep' close agin 'er, as wasn't nothink better than receivin' of stolen goods, as is wot is called a leavin' shop, as he'd been in prison twice over, and 'ad 'ad to shet up, so she says.

"Ah!" she says, "drink's a orful thing, ain't it, Mr. Poptrap, and it's lucky as you don't drink

nothink but water now, 'cos you won't miss your licker next time as you gets into Cold Bath Fields."

He knowed the illusion, for he were off like a lamp-lighter, as the sayin' is.

And she did tell us a lot about 'im, and would 'ave told us a lot more, only I turned it up, as the sayin' is; for I says, "Oh! bother them molly-coddle teetotalers, let them keep wot shops they likes, we're out to enjoy ourselves, so let's be merry and wise, as the sayin' is."

And so we was, for tho' a long day, we was all as sober as judges, as the sayin' is, tho' I did know a party as lived cook with a judge, as did used to be rollin' drunk in 'is own drorin'-room, and then carried up to bed by 'is own butler, as took the pledge thro' a-seein' of 'is own master that wallerin' beast, as is different to bein' a little on, as in course anyone might be overtook in a fault, as the sayin' is.

But them parties as goes in for a reg'lar drunk did ought to be sent to the treadmill; 'cos there's a great difference atween bein' cheerful as some is when they're out in company over a glass, and others as will pawn the boots off their children's feet for licker to drink on the sly, as I'd punish the pawnbroker as took 'em in, and the public-

'ouse as served 'em, as their habits must soon be known all over the naybourood.

The same as Mrs. Flinders as run all down the street where we lived in Stepney, with a carvin'-knife a-flourshin' over 'er 'ead, a-vowin' as she'd 'ave 'is 'art's blood, as 'ad stopped 'er credit at the public-'ouse, as were taken to the workus, and died ravin' mad with convulsions, as 'ad been a by-word for years all over the place thro' 'er drunken ways.

But any one as loves natur, and goes down to the Cristshul Pallis, wouldn't never think of makin' beasts of theirselves, as the sayin' is, as is a elewatin' spot, and there's a good many as 'ave come away from it werry much elewated no doubt; 'cos in course 'avin' of your mind espanded will 'ave that effect on some.

Talkin' of elewatin', I think it's a pity as they don't 'ave them lifts at the Cristshul Pallis for to take parties up to the top of them towers, as must be a fine view, tho' I couldn't never get up all them stairs myself, not to see Jerusalem, as must be the finest sight as ever were seen.

But from them towers you could see as far as your eyes could carry you, as the sayin' is, tho' that wouldn't be far with some parties as wears glasses, and yet a deal farther than my legs will carry me, as don't mind as long as I'm on level

ground, but can't stand no 'ills, and as to stairs they beats me 'oller.

When fust the Cristshul Pallis were opened, afore that 'Igh Level way were found out, I didn't mind them stairs, but now I couldn't manage 'em, not was it ever so, of a 'ot day; but did always used to go thro' the gardins, and up them noble stone steps, as I do think look grand, with them fountings a-playin' as 'ave got a duckin' myself, thro' not a-lookin' which way the wind were a-carryin' of the spray, the same as bein' a-board of a steamer, as you did ought to find out which is the right side on, or may be werry unpleasant to yourself, let alone others.

And that's why I likes a-goin' to the Cristshul Pallis better than even Rosherwille, as is lovely, 'cos it's all dry land there and back; not but wot a sea-breeze do fresh you up a bit, and blow the London smoke out of you; tho' you must be a werry smoky party as the Cristshul Pallis won't blow away.

In course I can't afford a guinea a-year jest for my own self, 'cos I wouldn't give a fardin to go nowhere's alone, but if I was Queen Wictorier, I'd enjoy it, as no doubt 'ave one, and often drops down there on the quiet, poor soul, with 'er wail down, and jest a princess or two with 'er, and nobody

notices 'er; as preaps is what she does do, when they puts it in the paper as she walked out with this one, and drove out with that, and all the while she's gone out on the quiet where 'er fancy leads 'er, by the back door.

It's wonderful wot you may see for your guinea at that Pallis, and 'ear too, let alone the company a-walkin' up and down that smart, for all the world as if they was a-comin' out of church, as you'd think they was with the orgin a-playin' that lovely; not as ever I were there on a grand day, but that once, as I went thro' a friend.

Not as I cares for seein' of lords and ladies a-walkin' about, as ain't no friends of mine, 'cos I likes my pals, as the sayin' is, and don't want to know no swells, thro' not bein' of a swell myself, as am thankful to think as I can pay my way and look back to the time when I couldn't 'ave laid out tuppence on takin' of pleasure, not with a clear conshence, nor yet treat no one else.

'Cos, as Brown did always used to say, "Be just afore you're generous;" 'cos, in course, if you ain't got money enuf to pay your way, you ain't no right a-takin' of your pleasure nowheres, let alone the Cristshul Pallis; and as to treatin' of others when your own children ain't got shoes and stockins, why I calls it a downright sin, as a many does

jest for the sake of gossin, as is wot I don't 'old with.

'Cos pleasure ain't no real pleasure when you feels you ain't no right to be a-takin' it, and not all the Cristshul Pallises in the world wouldn't tempt me to go out with a 'eavy 'art, a-knowin' as the money were wanted at 'ome, or took out of someone else's pocket.

THE END.

CHARLES DICKENS AND EVANS,
CRYSTAL PALACE PRESS.

LORD LYTTON'S NOVELS.

RAILWAY EDITION. 2s. each, boards; 2s. 6d. cloth.

ALICE: Sequel to Ernest Maltravers.
THE CAXTONS.
DEVEREUX.
THE DISOWNED.
ERNEST MALTRAVERS.
EUGENE ARAM.
GODOLPHIN.
HAROLD.
THE LAST OF THE BARONS.
LEILA, and THE PILGRIMS OF THE RHINE.
LUCRETIA.
MY NOVEL, Vol. 1.
MY NOVEL, Vol. 2.
NIGHT AND MORNING.
PAUL CLIFFORD.
PELHAM.
THE LAST DAYS OF POMPEII.
RIENZI.
A STRANGE STORY.
WHAT WILL HE DO WITH IT? Vol. 1.
WHAT WILL HE DO WITH IT? Vol. 2.
ZANONI.

Sets of LORD LYTTON'S Novels, 22 vols., fcap. 8vo cloth, £2 15s; boards, £2 4s.

LIBRARY EDITION. Sets of LORD LYTTON'S Novels, 22 Vols., crown 8vo, cloth gilt, £4 10s. 11 Vols., half roan, £4 3s.

THE KNEBWORTH EDITION.

Messrs. GEORGE ROUTLEDGE & SONS beg to announce that they have purchased the Copyright of all the Published and Unpublished Works of the late LORD LYTTON, and that they are issuing an entirely New Edition of them, in Monthly Volumes, price 3s. 6d. each.

This New Edition is printed from New Type, crown 8vo size, and bound in green cloth, each Volume averaging about 400 pages, and is entitled the KNEBWORTH EDITION, and will contain all the Novels, Poems, Dramas, and Miscellaneous Prose Writings of LORD LYTTON, forming the Only Complete Edition ever issued of the Works of this famous Author.

Volumes already issued—

Eugene Aram.
Night and Morning.
Pelham. With Portrait of the Author.
My Novel. Vol. 1.
My Novel. Vol. 2.
Ernest Maltravers.
Alice.
Last Days of Pompeii.
Harold.
The Coming Race.
Zanoni.
Paul Clifford.
Rienzi.
Last of the Barons.
Lucretia.
The Caxtons.
England and the English.
Caxtoniana.
Athens: its Rise and Fall.
The Student. &c,
Devereux.
The Disowned.
Godolphin.
A Strange Story.
What will He Do with it? Vol. 1.
What will He Do with It? Vol. 2.
The Pilgrims of the Rhine.

LORD LYTTON'S POETICAL WORKS.

Fcap 8vo, cloth, with Steel Portrait and Vignette, 5s.

LORD LYTTON'S DRAMATIC WORKS.

The Lady of Lyons.
Money.
Richelieu.
The Duchess de la Valliere.

Not so Bad as We Seem.

Fcap. 8vo, cloth, with Steel Portrait and Vignette, 5s.

London and New York:
GEORGE ROUTLEDGE AND SONS.

CAPTAIN MARRYAT.

An entirely New Edition of the Works of Captain MARRYAT, in Monthly Volumes, crown 8vo, bound in blue cloth, price 3*s.* 6*d.* each ; printed from entirely New Type, with Six Original Illustrations by the best Artists.

PETER SIMPLE.
THE KING'S OWN.
FRANK MILDMAY.
MIDSHIPMAN EASY.
JACOB FAITHFUL.
THE DOG FIEND.
RATTLIN THE REEFER.
PERCIVAL KEENE.
JAPHET IN SEARCH OF A FATHER.
NEWTON FORSTER.
OLLA PODRIDA.
THE POACHER.
PACHA OF MANY TALES.
VALERIE.
THE PHANTOM SHIP.
MONSIEUR VIOLET.

The Set Complete, 16 Vols., half roan, £3 3*s.*

FIELDING & SMOLLETT.

A New Edition of the Novels of these Standard Authors in 3*s.* 6*d.* Volumes, printed in crown 8vo size, bound in brown cloth, each Volume averaging about 400 pages, and containing Eight Illustrations by PHIZ.

HENRY FIELDING.
TOM JONES.
JOSEPH ANDREWS.
AMELIA.

BY T. SMOLLETT.
HUMPHRY CLINKER.
PEREGRINE PICKLE.
RODERICK RANDOM.

SIR WALTER SCOTT.

A NEW EDITION OF THE WAVERLEY NOVELS,

Printed in crown 8vo, uniform with the Knebworth Edition of Lord LYTTON'S Novels, containing the AUTHOR'S NOTES, and Illustrated with Steel Plates from designs by GEORGE CRUIKSHANK, TURNER, MACLISE, and other celebrated Artists.

To be issued in Monthly Volumes, price 3*s.* 6*d.* each. Volumes already published—

WAVERLEY.
THE HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN.
THE ANTIQUARY.
THE BRIDE OF LAMMERMOOR.
GUY MANNERING.
ROB ROY.
OLD MORTALITY.

MRS. BROWN.

BY

ARTHUR SKETCHLEY.

THE BROWN PAPERS.
THE BROWN PAPERS.—SECOND SERIES.
MRS. BROWN AT THE SEASIDE.
MRS. BROWN IN AMERICA.
MRS. BROWN'S VISITS TO PARIS.
MRS. BROWN IN THE HIGHLANDS.
MRS. BROWN IN LONDON.
MRS. BROWN ON THE GRAND TOUR.
MRS. BROWN AT THE PLAY.
MRS. BROWN'S 'OLIDAY OUTINGS.
MRS. BROWN ON THE ALABAMA CASE.
MRS. BROWN ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS.
MRS. BROWN ON THE LIQUOR LAW.
MRS. BROWN ON DIZZY.
MRS. BROWN AT MARGATE.
MRS. BROWN AT BRIGHTON.
MRS. BROWN AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.
MRS. BROWN AT THE SKATING RINK.

MISS TOMKINS'S INTENDED. By ARTHUR SKETCHLEY.

OUT FOR A HOLIDAY By ARTHUR SKETCHLEY.

LONDON:
GEORGE ROUTLEDGE & SONS.